

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, October 4, 2012

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Lemur lifts keeper's phone while back is turned



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Museum movie

Hollywood star Murphy films in the Black Country

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Full on full-back

New boy Popov is tipped to stir up team's defence



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Fight for building is facing deadline

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to save a former Sons of Rest building in Halesowen say they face a race against time as council bosses look for a swift solution on the future of the site.

More than 200 people have signed a petition opposing the planned sale of the building, on land between Alexandra Road and Wall Well by Dudley Council.

Last month residents were told they had two weeks to provide a business plan to prove the building can be run sustainably.

Councillor Donnelly Russell is heading the group of residents, which include Mervyn Holloway, of Alexandra Road.

The 78-year-old retired sign writer said: "The council say they have offers and have originally told us we had until the end of September to send them a plan. I think that has been extended, but I'm not sure by how long."

"We're working fast to put something together, but it's obviously difficult given the time constraint."

At the meeting last month Mohammed Farooq, assistant director of law and governance at Dudley Council, said there had been "significant" interest in the site.

A council spokesman said discussions on the deadline were still ongoing.

Bid to move memorial

A BID to move a Dudley war memorial to a new home has been launched by a Royal British Legion branch chairman.

Councillor Ken Finch wants the monument in Woodsetton to be given a lift and moved to a more prominent place.

It stands in the grounds of the former Mount Tabor Methodist Church, Sedgley Road.

Anyone with information about the site and memorial can contact Councillor Finch on 01902 673451

BIG WELCOME FOR WEST BROM MOVE

by Adam Burling

WEST Bromwich Building Society's decision to move its HQ to Dudley has been hailed as "excellent news" for the borough's economy.

Council chiefs and Dudley South MP Chris Kelly are among those who have welcomed the decision by the building society to uproot from its West Bromwich home and relocate to The Waterfront, near Merry Hill shopping centre. Chief executive Jonathan Westhoff said the society was moving to the Point North development, into a former base of banking company egg. After an extensive fit-out, it is hoped staff will move across to Dudley by autumn next year.

Mr Westhoff said: "The brand is what the society's name represents, our goods and services, rather than a geographical location. We're keeping ourselves in this heartland, keeping ourselves in our home roots.

"It gives us the necessary growth capacity for the coming years and that is the strongest message we can put out for our members and staff."

The society has been in West Bromwich for 160 years but bosses said its current home in a 1970s block, was no longer fit for purpose or its future plans.

Chiefs then considered a new base at West Bromwich's £75million Providence Place development.

But bosses said the asking price was higher than expected, so they looked towards Point North, which Mr Westhoff said was ideally suited as it was designed for a financial services company.

The society has now agreed with Richardsons Capital to lease 70,000 sq ft of space at the six-tier canalside block.

Significant

Leader of Dudley Council David Sparks said the move was "excellent news" for the Waterfront and Dudley.

"The fact that such a significant financial institution has chosen to come to Dudley is a big vote of confidence for the future of the area," he said.

Dudley South MP Chris Kelly said: "This is fantastic news for the local economy here in the Dudley borough."

He added: "We need more and more sustainable jobs in Dudley South and this is what we are now seeing. Dudley is open for business, as is Dudley South."

Paul Bennett, president of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, said: "It's great to hear. Given the amount of vacant space at the Waterfront it's good that such a high profile local business is choosing to relocate there." But Sandwell Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said the move was "an utter disgrace".

200 jobs are up for grabs at Merry Hill

AROUND 200 part-time seasonal jobs are up for grabs at Dudley's Merry Hill Shopping Centre.

A total of 37 stores in the centre – including Toys R Us, Republic and KFC – are looking for people to fill seasonal positions this Christmas.

A recruitment drive for the companies begins October 5 when a jobs fair takes place at the Black Country Skills shop from 9.30am to 4pm.

The fair takes place as luxury retailer Harvey Nichols announced it would open a gift shop in the centre, creating 10 new jobs.

However, it has not all been good news at the centre following the closure of JJB Sports, Harry Ramsden's and a Clinton Cards store in recent weeks.

Tina Dalzell, Black Country Skills Shop manager, said: "The festive period means many stores in the centre are looking to recruit more people to help with sales."

"All the jobs will be advertised at the fair and advice will be given on how to apply."

"Anyone interested is welcome to bring along their CV and we can look to match them with any relevant vacancies."

Business Skills, an employment arm of Stourbridge College, is holding the fair in partnership with Job Centre Plus.

The group assists stores with recruitment. Positions advertised will include those for Harvey Nichols. The retailer is to open a shop in the Upper Mall on Saturday.

Canal festival makes return



Steve Bingham, Chairman of the Parkhead Canal Festival, with a barge and a 1932 Ford coal truck in the background and in front of his canal cottage

MORE than 80 narrow and working boats moored up in Dudley as a popular canal festival made a welcome return. Thousands of people flocked to the two-day Parkhead Canal Festival to enjoy a feast of entertainment including canal boat rides and a dog show. The event, which was last held in 2008, was organised by Dudley Canal Trust with Worcestershire and Birmingham Canal Society.

• Steams – Page 2

MORE than 100 jobs have been lost, 17 of which will be in Dudley, and five stores closed across the region as JJB Sports went into administration.

Branches in Merry Hill Centre, Stafford and Walsall were among 133 nationwide that have shut.

Twenty have been bought by rival Sports Direct, including Oldbury and West Bromwich.

In total, 2,060 staff have been made redundant, including 15 at the branch in the Guildhall Shopping Centre in Stafford, 15 in Walsall and 17 at Merry Hill.

Another 19 have gone at Birmingham 19 and 15 at Tamworth.

John Lamb, from Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce, said: "Any loss of jobs is to be regretted and most companies are fighting long and hard to avoid it."

"It is a very difficult time and we can only hope the people who have lost their jobs will find alternative employment."

Sports Direct has saved 550 jobs including those at the JJB warehouse. It has also bought the JJB website.

The news follows the closure of two other units at the shopping centre in Brierley Hill. Fish and chip shop chain Harry Ramsden's closed three weeks ago with the loss of 14 jobs after losing nearly £1 million.

SVR shares go on sale

SHARES in the Severn Valley Railway have gone on sale to pay for a new visitor centre.

It is hoped the three million shares, at £1 each, will fund the new centre, station gateway and spectator gallery at Bridgnorth Station, and create a heritage engineering and building training academy.

People can now buy shares, at a minimum investment of £100 each. General manager Nick Ralls said shareholders would be given discounts.

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Lenny adds voice to theatre battle

DUDLEY funnyman Lenny Henry threw his weight behind the campaign to save the town's Hippodrome when he visited a foundry in his home town.

"It is a building with lots of history to it, and it is always important to preserve any live venue," he said as he visited Thomas Dudley.

"There are always people who will see it as progress when you knock a building down but with a town as

old as Dudley, history is very important," Lenny said he remembered seeing the legendary comic Tommy Cooper at the theatre.

He said: "It is a building that is definitely worth preserving."

Dudley Council this month applied for planning permission to demolish the former theatre, which has been lying empty for the last three years since Gala Bingo Club moved out. During the visit, [Lenny

also spoke of his pride at plans to grant him the freedom of the borough, which will soon be voted on by members of Dudley Council.

"For somebody who never even completed his education, just to even be considered for such a thing is a huge honour," he said. "I'm sure my mother would be very proud."

Lenny, who as a child lived in Douglas Road in Baffery Park, was in Dudley to open a £4.5 million pro-

duction line at the foundry. He said: "I worked for eight months up the road at British Federal, and my father was a foundry worker too, so I feel a great connection with this line of work."

Lenny performed a short comedy act for staff members during his visit to the factory, joking about the names of some of the lavatory cisterns which the company produces.

He also joked about his childhood.

Engineers to grow with £6m JLR deal

A DUDLEY toolmaking firm is set to secure up to 26 million of business with Jaguar Land Rover, bosses say – as they look to expand their operations to a new site.

Petford Tools is seeing business boom due to the success of the car industry.

Staff on the moulding line will be increased by 20 per cent while the firm searches for new premises in addition to its base in Peartree Lane, Dudley.

The contracts making tools to be used on parts for the new Freelander and 494 Range Rover Sport would bring in £5m to £6m in around nine months.

The company is also being signed up for about £1.5m of work on the new Ford Focus and lines for Japanese firms.

An extra 14 staff will be taken on in addition to the 70 moulding line workers and the company is also looking to buy another two machines to boost production. The firm, which employs 105 staff, recently broke the £14m annual sales barrier for the first time in its 42-year history.

Bosses have invested £3m over the last five years and the company now operates around the clock.

Canal festival steams back into big success

Malcolm Dunlop, left, and Tony Tibbins, both from the Black Country Living Museum, with the steam narrowboat President



Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Melvyn Mottram with Mayoress Michelle Mottram get ready to start the duck race



Graham Howland with his Petter light paraffin engine, built in 1925



Narrowboats make their way to the Parkhead Canal Festival

A CANAL festival returned to Dudley after a four-year break with more than 6,000 people attending.

The two-day Parkhead Canal Festival saw 86 narrow and working boats moored up between Dudley Tunnel and Blowers Green Pump-House in Peartree Lane.

There was also vintage vehicles put on display, a dog show on the

Sunday and a craft stall and beer tent. People dressed in traditional Victorian outfits for the event.

Organiser Steve Bingham said: "The festival went down very well, it was four years since the last one and I think everyone was pleased to see it back."

"Interest in the canals is still high in the area and it was good to see so many boats turn up." The event also featured canal trips and one

tunnel boat trip per day. A duck race was also held on the Sunday, started by the Mayor of Dudley Melvyn Mottram.

The event was organised by Dudley Canal Trust with Worcestershire and Birmingham Canal Society.

The biennial event was set to take place in 2010, but was cancelled amid fears of a water shortage. Money raised from this year's event will be used by the canal trusts to continue maintenance of the canals.

Mr Bingham said: "We haven't counted how much has been raised yet, but we're hoping for about £1,000."

"Any money coming our way is much needed as many of the waterways are old and in need of repairs."

Organisers hope the festival will raise awareness of the canal system and generate interest which will support the trusts.

History events

AMBLECOTE History Society will stage its next events at the Ruskin Mill Glass Centre, Wollaston Road.

The next meeting will be on Friday 10 featuring a talk on Wollescote Hall.

Andrew Lound will bring wartime costumes and memorabilia to the next meeting on November 14.

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Nightclub 'unfairly labelled'

THE owner of a nightclub given a string of strict operating conditions, claims his venue has been unfairly branded as trouble.

Indulgence in Brierley Hill had more than 30 conditions relating to security stamped on its licence by a Dudley Council licensing panel.

The conditions came as a result of a licence review called for by police on the grounds of the prevention of crime and disorder.

Officers had forced the cancellation of a birthday party at the Wedgbury Way venue in June following a shooting the week before at a nightclub Code in Dudley.

Police said they had intelligence of a gang-related threat to someone's life.

But owner Steven Simpson said the cancellation and the verdict from the recent hearing had tarnished his club's reputation.

Mr Simpson, who also owns Pulse nightclub in Dudley Road, Brierley Hill, said his businesses were clean of trouble.

He said: "It's difficult enough to run a nightclub in these times without the publicity and more conditions on my licence."

Survey on divorce rate

MORE than half of people in the West Midlands have a family member who is divorced – and four out of five say children should come first in a marriage break-up.

The figures are part of a survey carried out on behalf of Resolution, a national group of family lawyers, including the Black Country Collaborative Law Group.

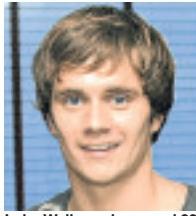
The online survey, which brought responses from 193 people in the West Midlands, found 45 per cent thought divorce was impossible without conflict. Only one per cent said being financially better off than their partner in a split would be the most important consideration.

Homes planned

FIVE new homes could be built on council-owned land in Dudley.

Plans have been submitted for the two-bed houses on land between Alexandra Street and Edward Street. It would consist of a terrace of four houses and one detached home.

Family of accused fly out as trial due to start



Luke Walker, when aged 22

THE family of Luke Walker have flown out to Greece as he prepares to go on trial this month accused of killing his girlfriend.

His father Patrick and elder brother Ryan have joined Luke's mother Lindy in Crete ahead of the trial, which starts on October 16.

Prosecutors claim Luke, of Brierley Hill, beat Chelsea Hyndman, aged 20, to death in the holiday resort of Malia in 2010. It is not known how long

the trial will last but his family are pinning their hopes on evidence from defence witnesses, including some of her friends.

The 24-year-old has been forced to remain in the country since he was charged.

Rented

His family has been travelling back and forth to see Luke who has been staying in a rented apartment. Electrical contractor Mr Walker said the family was

"praying" for a positive outcome after months of despair waiting for the case to be heard.

"We have wanted this to arrive for so long but I'm still nervous about it," said the 55-year-old who runs Walkers Electrics.

"I can't remember a normal life, and to have not had Luke back home for so long now is still upsetting. Without the support of the people around here, both financially and emotionally, I don't know what we would have

done – they have been great. We are just praying that it is all over soon, hopefully by the end of the year but we just don't know yet."

Defence

The couple met three years before her death while working as holiday reps. Luke's defence is that Chelsea's injuries were caused by a fall on a night out rather than, as prosecutors suggest, during a fit of jealousy by him.

NEWS

in brief

Call to gardener to tend allotment

OVER-50s who would like to help tend an allotment are being urged to contact Age Concern for Stourbridge and Halesowen.

The charity is to start a gardening club after acquiring an allotment in Springfield Road, Wollescote.

Task Force Lye – a group of Lye residents in their 40s – is helping Age Concern to clear waist-high weeds and prepare the site for the club.

Anyone can register their interest. Call 01384 395534 for further details.

Student awarded college funding

A STUDENT from Dudley has secured a bursary to fund her studies at Cambridge University.

Lydia Bagley, of Brierley Hill, is among 10 students from the West Midlands who have received bursaries from awarding body OCR.

The students were presented with their awards at a ceremony ahead of the start of their studies at Cambridge in October.

This is the ninth successive year OCR has awarded bursaries to students in the region.

Protest planned at circus event

ANIMAL rights campaigners are planning to stage a protest outside a circus when it visits Dudley.

But organisers of the Bobby Roberts Super Circus, which will hold shows in Wall Heath from October 3 to 7, say they treat their animals fairly.

National group The Captive Animals' Protection Society has called for a public boycott over concerns about horses in the circus at Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club.

RAFA branch raises £2,000

MORE than £2,000 was collected by the Royal Air Force Association's Stourbridge branch during Battle of Britain commemorations.

Volunteers held a street collection, and RAF veterans held their commemorations in Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Park.

Charity help call

A CHARITY needs volunteers to mentor youngsters going through tough times. Mentor Link, Stourbridge, wants people to volunteer for six months. Call 07973 572768.

Brothers hoping to bring brewing back this month

A BREWERY which will bring beer-making back to a historic Dudley pub for the first time in 150 years could be launched next month.

The Fownes Brewing Company has submitted plans to turn outbuildings at the Jolly Crispin, Clarence Street, Upper Gornal, into the new brewery.

Bosses said they were expecting a decision to be made by Dudley Council on October 2 as no objections have been received so far.

Subject to permission being granted, work will start to move equipment into the outbuildings and the site will be officially launched on October 18.

Eight casks of ale will be produced weekly when production gets under way but bosses hope to increase this to up to 1,500 pints a week by the end of next year.

A launch event has been planned for October 18 where the full range of beers produced by the company will be on the bar.

Brothers Tom and James Fownes, who are launching the brewery, will be on hand to talk about each of the beers.

People will also be able to see the brewery in action and learn more about the brewing process and which ingredients are used.

The brewery is a separate business to the pub but will supply both it and beer fes-

■ by Lee Watton

tivals with ale. James Fownes, 32, of The Ridge-way, Sedgley, said everything was progressing well and they were hoping for a positive decision on the plans early next month.

"I have been in touch with the council and at the moment no objections have been received to the plans. We are expecting a decision to be made on October 2.

Machinery

"Once approval has been received we will start moving all the machinery into the site."

"It will be a lot of work but we are confident everything will be ready in time for October 18."

The brothers have built most of the equipment themselves in order to keep down costs. The brewing company was launched in May and supplied its first cask of Frost Hammer ale to the Jolly Crispin in July.

The last time beer was brewed at the pub was in the 19th century.

Smoking costs £70m

SMOKING costs the Dudley borough's economy £70 million a year, say health bosses.

Figures from Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) show a loss to the workplace of people who die early due to the habit costs £23.2m and lost productivity from workers taking smoking break notches up another £16.4m. Sick days from smoking related illnesses cost a further £14.1m. The ASH survey estimates the habit costs the Dudley NHS £15.2m and another £4m from passive smoking.



Trainee keeper Shaun Crompton gets his mobile phone from mischievous lemur, Splitz

Lemur lifts keeper's phone and then Splitz

SPLITZ the black and white ruffed lemur was in the doghouse after turning pickpocket and running off with trainee keeper Shaun Crompton's mobile phone.

Shaun was carrying out his daily duties in Lemur Wood at Dudley Zoological Gardens when the mischievous mammal crept up behind him, reached into his fleece pocket and pinched the phone.

He then darted off down the path into the undergrowth.

Shaun said: "My pocket zip is broken, so Splitz was able to reach in and grab it and before I could stop him he had already run off with it in his hand."

"He climbed quite high up into a tree and was beginning to chew the phone, so I had to get team leader Pat Stevens to ring it.

"The phone vibrated in his hand when it rang and thankfully he dropped it, but it landed in thick nettles, so I'm now covered in nettle rash after retrieving it."

"The good news is that it's still working, but I think I need to mend my pocket, so Splitz can't get his hands on it again."

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NEWS

**THE BEST
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RHODES**

AFTER the recent report of mysterious lights in the night sky, a reader tells me he once came second in an astronomy quiz and won the constellation prize.

□□□□□□□

QUOTE of the week. "You haven't heard the last of this." Tory whip Andrew Mitchell's (alleged) parting shot to the police officer who made him get off his bike.

□□□□□□□

IN THE wake of the Mitchell business, a reader asks when the term 'pleb' became an insult. He says he often greeted his fellow office workers with a cheery "Morning, plebs!" I suspect no-one minds being called a pleb by a fellow pleb. It's when the ruling classes start calling us plebs that we mentally begin to sharpen the guillotine blades.

□□□□□□□

ISN'T it irritating to get a print-out from the bank cash machine so faint you can barely read it? My bank, HSBC, made nearly £12,000 million profit in 2010. How much will they have to make before they can afford to put some ink in the printer?

□□□□□□□

THE PARADISE (BBC1) was beautifully set, subtly lit, gorgeously costumed and, in the main, quietly spoken in soothing Geordie tones. Yes, we fell asleep, too.

□□□□□□□

CLARISSA Dickson Wright, the Fat Lady cook, says if badgers are going to be culled, why not eat them? She suggests turning badger meat into ham or casseroling it. I can't see it happening. Countryfolk will eat just about anything but they avoid badger. When a badger is killed, even a hungry fox will give it a wide berth. The stinking carcasses lie around for ages because the only creatures willing to eat dead badgers are maggots. Tell you what, Clarissa. You can have my share.

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Harry Shaw

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Tribute acts on the bill for JB's big reopening

Nightclub JB's launches this weekend with bosses vowing live music will remain central to its ambitions.

The Castle Hill venue once played host to Robert Plant and U2 and was renowned across the region. But now the club has had a six-figure transformation allowing owners to hold wedding receptions and conferences as well as music.

The move sparked controversy from the club's devoted fans from down the years who besieged JB's old Facebook page to complain about the revamp.

Owner Ramesh Kumar Ahir says they will consider a return for rock nights at the club but maintained they were "aiming to cater to all tastes". The opening night is on Saturday, October 6, when JB's will host tribute acts to singers Michael Buble, Amy Winehouse and Pink.

Mr Ahir has linked with entertainment agency Aston Management in a bid to source live acts and bands to fit the bill at the nightspot.

Tony Aston, from the agency, said the 900-capacity JB's could rival top venues like Wolverhampton Civic Hall and Wulfrun Hall for touring acts.

"Live music and entertainment will feature at JB's and we are just asking for people to come out and support us," Mr Aston said.

"Undoubtedly there will be change in the village."

"The club is capable of hosting a variety of events.

Historic gates to get facelift



The historic gates at the former Corbett Hospital are being refurbished

A PAIR of historic gates from the entrance of a former Stourbridge hospital are being given a facelift.

Dudley NHS is spending almost £5,000 on sprucing up the ornate wrought iron gates to the old Corbett Hospital building in High Street, Amblecote.

The move has been welcomed by local historians, who say the light-blue, painted gates, which have an archaeological listing and are more than 100 years old, had become rusty and slightly bent. When members of Amblecote History Society first saw the gates had disappeared, they feared they may have been stolen by metal thieves.

But the alarm turned to delight when Dudley NHS, which now owns the site, revealed it had removed them for refurbishment.

Dudley NHS spokesman Lindsey Harding said: "When the specialist work is finished, they should be looking shiny and beautiful again."

Original name of hall to be restored

AN historic Dudley hall's traditional name has been restored, nearly a decade after it was controversially scrapped to create a more modern image.

Dudley Concert Hall will once again be known by its original name of Dudley Town Hall after council leaders decided to reverse the change made in 2004.

Authority bosses said most people had continued to call it the town hall and the name was an important part of the town's heritage.

But they said the name would only be changed, on signs and printed materials when the need arose in order to minimise costs.

The change has already been posted on the council's official web page for the venue.

The building had been called Dudley Town Hall for 75 years before the change was made in 2004 following restoration work.

It was made to update the image of the building and for visitors to the town to more easily make the distinction between the building and the nearby council house.

Computer course

STOURBRIDGE and Halesowen Age Concern is running over-50s computer courses at Mary Stevens Resource Centre Oldswinford, Stourbridge, on Tuesdays 9am-11am.

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Businesses optimistic over town

TRADERS in Stourbridge have vowed to survive parking problems in light of a multi-million town centre development which they hope will herald a new start for the town.

Businesses say the new £50 million Crown Centre, with a Tesco supermarket and 543-space car park, will bring more shoppers to the town.

They asked customers to stay loyal to the independent traders after admitting it will remain a struggle while disruption continues.

Council bosses said they were trying to keep disruption to a minimum.

Stacey Smith, joint proprietor of Scary Canary Clothing, Victoria Passage, says she is so positive about the town's prospects she has invested in bringing in a line of clothing from Beyoncé.

"I really believe in the town and I think there are a lot of independent businesses in Stourbridge," said the 31-year-old, who runs the store with her business partner Steve Pilcher.

Francesca Portera, aged 30, owner of women's fashion outlet Bella Boo in High Street, said business remains brisk.

Ghostly event

THE latest ghost tour of Dudley takes place next week, starting and finishing in the Station Hotel, at the bottom of Castle Hill. It will take in sites around the town, including the castle. The walk is on October 10 from 8pm. Tickets are £8. To book call 01384 812812.

The wait is over as students bring a buzz to new centre

AFTER years of planning, a multi-million-pound sixth form centre in Dudley has finally opened to students. The new facility is part of Dudley College.

These pictures show the completed Dudley Sixth campus for the first time since lessons started there this term. It includes dozens of classrooms, two lifts, three toilets, a common room and large library. Christine Richards, assistant director at the college, said: "The new campus has created a real buzz around the college as the students come back."

"The building is obviously brand new and full of modern technology which the students and teachers are enjoying getting used to. We hope it further inspires students' learning and helps reach their targets."

Around 220 students signed up for the lower sixth this year, taking the total number of people enrolled in the sixth form up to around 350. The college hopes for another bumper enrolment next year to take the total number of students to 500.

Among the students this year is 17-year-old Hardip Sidhu, from Wolverhampton. He said: "I love the space we have here to learn, everyone seems happy to be here. I think that's what learning in a new building does."

Natalie Chidhakwa, 17, of Sedgley said: "I think it is good."

The building, which cost £6.6million, was finished just before the start of term two weeks ago.

The sixth form has moved to the new centre from the college's campus on The Broadway and is part of a wider project to create a learning quarter in the town.

This includes the college's Broadway campus, Dudley Sixth and the Dudley Evolve vocational training centre.

The Dudley Sixth building has three levels and each of the floors has a different colour theme.



Christine Richards, assistant director of Dudley Sixth, outside the centre



In the science lab are, from left, Hannah Williamson, Gurveer Dhanjan, Hansley Gendoo, Delano Webley, James Roberts and Metisse Campbell, front

NEWS in brief

Search on to find the new leader

THE search is on for a new Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire.

The role has been empty since the death of the former chairman of Brimtons Carpets, Kidderminster, Michael Brinton, who had been in the role since 2001.

Worcestershire County Council is now working with the Prime Minister's appointments secretary in the search for a new holder of the title.

More information about

the role and the responsibilities can be found at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lord-lieutenant.

College project helps find jobs

MORE than 300 people have found work in the last year since a jobs' project was launched by Dudley College.

The Employment Hub at The Broadway campus was set up last year to help jobseekers improve their skills and get free training.

Training is available in forklift, truck driving, warehousing and basic English. Call 01384 363804 for more details.

Pest control calls have settled down

PEST control services in Dudley are back to normal after a surge in calls.

Earlier this month, the team at Dudley Council was only offering advice over the phone because of the high pressure in calls.

They also told residents to hire private pest control firms instead.

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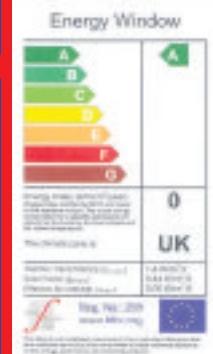
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NEWS

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Centre fit to be with best



Site fitness co-ordinator Kevin Daly celebrates the bronze award with staff Luke Fidoe and Ian Horton and other members of the gym

SMETHWICK Swimming Centre
has been crowned one of the best health clubs or leisure centres in the region.

The centre in Thimblemill Road won bronze in the West Midlands (North) division of the national Health Club of the Year awards. The competition, in its second year, attracted more than 400 entries nationally. Kevin Daly, site fitness

co-ordinator, said: "This is a fantastic achievement. This award takes into account feedback from our members."

The centre, known to many as Thimblemill baths, will celebrate its 80th anniversary next year.

Staff from the centre picked up the award in Birmingham. The centre is managed by Sandwell Leisure Trust.

LETTERS

Treasures can be under your nose

HOW often it is that we search far and wide for perfect treasures, yet we sometimes fail to spot the gems that exist right under our noses.

Such was the case when my wife and I visited Walsall Town Hall on September 15 for their "Last Night at the Proms" concert organised by Walsall Rotary Club for cancer charity.

The concert itself was very enjoyable, featuring the Walsall Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Clive Allsop and the Shelford Male Voice choir.

In addition, there were two extremely talented and well-travelled young performers, Warren Mailley-

Smith and Susan Parkes, who were far and away the stars of the show.

Pianist, Warren Mailley Smith was unbelievable, playing without music sheets, his delivery of pieces known for being complex, turbulent and vibrant that would test the most accomplished of performers was excellent.

Strong, tempestuous and contrasting themes delivered faultlessly. Soprano, Susan Parkes was born in Walsall and is fiercely proud of her Black Country heritage.

Her personality and confidence shone through the moment she walked on stage. Then, after a brief introduc-

tion, she walked across stage away from the microphone.

Sitting near to the back of the hall, we expected to listen intently just to hear the songs. Instead, we were absolutely stunned to be suddenly overwhelmed by a tsunami of wonderful strong sounds emanating from this lovely, slender young lady.

She was unbelievable. I would urge anyone interested in opera to listen to Susan Parkes, most certainly a Black Country treasure.

MICHAEL CLIFF
Holcroft Road
Wall Heath

Ineptitude has turned town into dead zone

TO destroy a historic building like the Hippodrome and replace it with a monstrosity like The Public, that the people of West Bromwich were lumbered with by Sandwell Council, or more piles of scrap metal like those we already have on our traffic islands, would be bad enough.

But to replace part of Dudley's Heritage with yet another car park, is crass beyond belief.

It shows that Dudley Council under New Labour's control is just as inept and lacking in the imagination needed to drive the regeneration of a historic town as all the previous administrations which, between them, have managed to turn Dudley into the dead zone it is today.

R A SARGEANT
Rosland Estate
Dudley

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Halesowen Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial, 51-53
Queen Street, Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Have no illusions, Tesco will bring ruin

IT was sad but not surprising to read of two more shops shutting in Stourbridge partly due to the disruption of the redevelopment taking place in order to accommodate Tesco.

Our councillors would have us believe the town will gain in the end, and it will bring more business to the existing shops.

I would say just look at what has happened in Cradley Heath, since Tesco came the town has died, people go to Tesco and get everything they need in one place.

The same will happen in Stourbridge, anyone who thinks otherwise is living in Cloud Cuckoo Land. I think there is another side to the whole thing also, many of your readers will remember the Tesco in Dudley town, they opened a number over the years only to move on when it suited, the notable being the huge one in King Street which is now Cousins, my point being Tesco will disrupt many people's lives in their quest for more profit, but owe no loyalty to anyone but themselves.

RON G WILLIAMS
Salcombe Drive, Brierley Hill

Scheme will bring nothing of worth

I READ with trepidation of the scheme for Dudley Council to undertake extensive refurbishment at Elizabeth House, Holloway Chambers and Holloway Hall in Priory Street, Dudley.

If this scheme is anything like the one on The Crown pub in Wolverhampton Street we taxpayers are in for a lot of expense with nothing to show for it.

If the Townscape Heritage Initiative funded The Crown I suggest they come and inspect the end result and question how long this building has been left empty.

In my opinion Dudley Council has a finger in too many pies at the present time.

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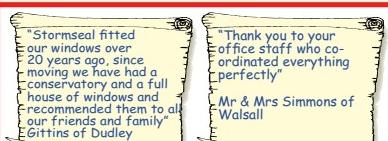
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NEWS

Ambulance service to cut 200 jobs over five years

MORE than 200 jobs will go at West Midlands Ambulance Service over the next five years.

By 2017, the service wants to cut the number of full-time equivalent posts to 3,419, down from 3,647 – a reduction of 228. Bosses have vowed the jobs would go through natural wastage rather than through redundancies – and said the cuts would have no bearing on the number of paramedics on the streets. Instead, the service is ploughing money into training existing staff up as paramedics.

Director of workforce Kim Nurse said 150 technicians went through the training programme last year alone, with around 200 posts advertised either internally or externally.

"We do need to consolidate the way we work, but we are going to do it by investing in our workforce," she said.

"It will all be done through natural attrition. We know how many people we will lose through retirement or simply moving on."

"We also know how many members of staff we can afford to train and put through university programmes as part of our in-house professional development programmes. That way, we can make sure we have the highest skilled staff possible to care for patients in the West Midlands."

The figures emerged at the service's annual general meeting, held at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital last week.

Ms Nurse said the organisation hoped to be the first ambulance trust in the country to have a paramedic in every ambulance.

Burglar parked on drive

A BURGLAR parked a car on a drive outside a house before stealing two televisions, a laptop and bracelets.

The thief was seen in Linnet Rise, Kidderminster on September 24 when he reversed a silver/grey VW Golf on to the drive. He stole a 42in TV worth £368, a 19in Toshiba TV worth £100, an X-box worth £200, a navy blue Packard Bell laptop worth £200 and two men's silver bracelets worth £30.

Batman star at museum



Actors Cillian Murphy and Paul Anderson at the Black Country Living Museum filming for a BBC drama. Picture by Robert Vigasky

IRISH actor Cillian Murphy brought a touch of Hollywood to Dudley when the Batman films star was working on a new BBC drama series.

The Black Country Living Museum's rolling mill, canal and boat dock were transformed into scenes from the script of the BBC 2 series, Peaky Blinders, as the location was dressed up to look like 1920s Birmingham. Cillian, who is well-known a villain The Scarecrow in Batman Begins and in The Dark Knight and The Dark Knight Rises – is part of a distinguished cast for the gangster saga.

Museum spokeswoman Fiona Carding, who worked with him on location in Dudley during the week of filming, said: "They were an extremely friendly cast and crew and Cillian was very approachable, a nice guy."

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NEWS

Action call to stop cars speeding near to school

Truck in the pink for cause



Grandmother Mo Usowicz and the pink truck dedicated to her daughter Nikki Usowicz who died from cancer – top are Nikki's daughters Danni Perrins and Jade Perrins with Zoe Lloyd, friend of the family, and Olivia Moffat, daughter of Jade, seated

A SIGN-WRITER'S truck is in the pink to help pick up funds for breast cancer awareness month.

Chris Cook, owner of AKC Signs, Wordsley has fitted his black pick-up truck with pink plastic and is calling for sponsors to be featured on the signage to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

He already has 26 firms signed up

and he will keep the new colour scheme throughout October. The total so far is £1,300. It was a tragedy among friends which prompted this special effort, as a friend of Mr Cook and his wife Kelly – Nikki Usowicz – recently lost her battle with breast cancer. She leaves daughters Danni, aged 18, and Jade, 21. Call 07891 473204 to sponsor.

CAMPAIGNERS are demanding action to halt motorists driving at double the speed limit near a school in Wordsley.

They fear a serious accident could happen along Balmoral Road unless new safety measures are put in place.

The road feeds into Bells Lane and is used by parents taking their children to Ashwood Park Primary School and close to King George V Park.

Dudley Council officials have agreed to look at the scheme following a request from ward councillor Derrick Hemingsley. Councillor Hemingsley carried out a survey with residents of the road after the issue came to light – it received unanimous support from homeowners.

Among the options being considered are flashing warning signs which activate when drivers break the 30mph limit.

"Some of the speeds the cars are reaching are unbelievable, I've been told they can reach anything up to 70 mph," he said.

"The school is at the bottom of the road and it can be busy down here with parents parking."

"Vehicles are often speeding during the times when children walk to or leave Ashwood Park School."

Ashwood Park Primary headteacher Steve Hudson welcomed the views of residents and Councillor Hemingsley. "Anything that can be done to keep the children safe is good news with me," he said.

Councillor Judy Foster, said: "The request will be added to the local safety scheme assessment for the next financial year 2013/14."

Solicitors raise funding

A FIRM of solicitors raised £500 for a children's charity in their second annual cyclothon and "walkathon."

QualitySolicitors Talbots organised the event, from Bewdley to Bridgnorth, in aid of the Chris Westwood charity for children with physical disabilities.

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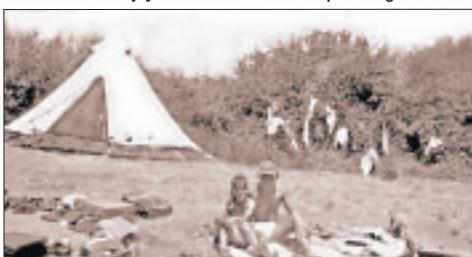
This Scout hut was replaced by the one that still stands in Ironstone Road



Chase Terrace Scouts take part in one of their successful stage shows



Scout leaders enjoy one of the summer camps during the 1950s



Reunion organiser Dave Robinson as a boy with his elder brother

Reunion of Scouts as 1950s summer camps are recalled

NEXT Thursday, On October 11, there will be a reunion of old Chase Terrace Scouts at the Spinney Club, Chase Terrace courtesy of David Robinson of Robinson's Butchers.

The collection of photos shown here are mainly of summer camps in Teignmouth, in Devon or at Shanklin on the Isle of Wight.

The Scoutmaster for many years was the revered Bert Wright and he can be seen on some of the group photos.

Later, the Scout group was led

by Ron Bradbury

by the much thought of Archie Smith.

The photos were taken in the early 1950s, and at this time the hotels and such like at Shanklin had not all re-opened after the war.

One photo shows a bunch of Scouts peeling potatoes – well someone had to do them if you wanted to eat.

Another photo shows some of the Scouts on Shanklin Station with suitcases etc on their way home. The Isle of Wight were running ex-London Underground trains, and these still

run today providing a bit of fun to the journey to Ryde. Back home the Scouts carried on with the fun with their gang shows, and one photo shows them on stage in what was usually a successful show.

The Scout hut shown is the one that was replaced by the building that stands in Ironstone Road to this day.

David Robinson is shown as a young lad on one of the photos with his elder brother's arm around him.

Any old Scouts wishing to attend the reunion can contact David via the Burntwood shop or the shop on the corner of Spinney Lane.



An old group shot featuring former Scoutmaster Bert Wright



A group of Scouts at Shanklin Station on the Isle of Wight

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NEWS

People do a good deed to help Scouts after theft



Assistant Scout Leader Dave Passmore with Beaver Ashanti Coomby and Scout William Passmore and other members at the Scout HQ

THE community has united to help a Scout group after raiders smashed their way into the headquarters and stripped it of all the youngsters' camping equipment.

Some 20 people have contacted the 1st Bromley - Pensnett group since the break-in was reported in the local press.

They have offered to donate a new front door, a gazebo and a tent, along with gift sets and bouquets that can be raffled off to raise cash. Scout meetings had been temporarily cancelled until proper repairs could be carried out to the front door.

The meetings will be able to continue as soon as the door is replaced.

Lisa Passmore, volunteer and fundraiser for the group, said she was "amazed" that people had been so generous.

Among the items stolen - thought to be worth between £2,000 and £3,000 - were 10 six-man tents, a water barrel, camping cooker, dining shelter, vacuum cleaner, electric generator, lawn mower, an axe and a bow saw. It is the second time in three months the group has been burgled, last time walkie talkies were stolen.

The youngsters - aged five to 16, most of them boys but including eight girls - are devastated by their loss.

The burglars broke into their HQ in Bromley, off Bromley Lane, Pensnett, some time between last week.

Miss Passmore said: "We're really grateful to all the people that have got in touch, it shows that people are really generous."

The gazebo was donated by Halfords, while the rest has come from residents who read about the thefts in the newspaper.

Final free music recital

THE final free music recital of 2012 at Great Witley Church, near Stourport, will be taking place on October 7.

The concert, at 5pm, will feature the Elgar Violin Sonata, played by Sam Paine and the Rachmaninov Cello Sonata, performed by Abigail Taylor.

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NEWS

£24m learning campus aiming to open in 2014

A £24 million learning campus – which will be built on the same site as two Kidderminster schools – is scheduled to open within two years.

Under the proposals a new school would open, catering for 220 pupils, aged between two and 19, with special educational needs.

A new science teaching block, an early years hub and boarding house would also be constructed on the site of Baxter College and St John's Primary School. Worcestershire County Council submitted it to Wyre Forest district.

The plans aim to bring mainstream and special school pupils together.

Classrooms and the science laboratories will be shared by the schools while new sports facilities, including a floodlit artificial pitch and multi-use games area which will be open to the wider community are included.

St John's Primary would be refurbished and extending as part of the scheme, announced by Worcestershire County Council. The new special school, Wyre Forest School, will replace the existing Stourminster and Blakebrook Schools, in Kidderminster.

Bosses say it will be built by phase to minimise disruption and is expected to be finished by summer 2014.

David Thain, cabinet member for transformation and change said: "We are delighted that this exceptional project has got the go-ahead from planners."

Students run up money

STUDENTS at Halesowen College have raised more than £90 during a fun run for Macmillan Cancer Support. The students ran continuously for an hour.

The event was organised by Faith Marland, aged 16, a former pupil of Haybridge High School and 17-year-olds Lorraine Gennard, 17, former pupil of Bishop Milner RC School, Lauren Gennard, former pupil of Windsor High School and Rashana Gordon.

Baby boy special delivery



Debbie and Anthony Bagbee, from Wall Heath, with their new baby Alex

A FATHER had to become a midwife and delivered his own son when the baby made a sudden appearance.

Many men could have passed out at the prospect but car mechanic Anthony Bagbee, aged 35, is the talk of the town after calmly bringing son Alex into the world.

A West Midlands Ambulance controller talked Anthony through what he had to do on the telephone when his wife, Debbie, went into labour at their home in Beachcroft Road, Wall Heath just after 5am on

September 26. Alex was born at 5.30am, weighing 7lb 5oz. "Ant is fantastic – a lot of men would have passed out but he kept calm and it was a normal delivery," said Debbie, 34, a commercial manager.

Anthony said: "She went to have a bath and called to me that she was having contractions.

"I helped her into the bedroom and dialled 999 while she lay on the bed.

"The ambulance controller talked me through it."

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Tributes as talented 'Dick Decent' dies at age 51

TRIBUTES have been paid to a Dudley musician who played on stage with rock band Def Leppard. He was 51 years old.

Keyboard player Richard Hancock, better known by his stage name Dick Decent, has been hailed a "super-talented musician" by the band, while his family described him as "amazing".

Mr Hancock, of Lower Gornal, was not a regular member of Def Leppard but sat in on tour and played in Joe Elliott and Phil Collen's Cybernauts side project.

His widow Sara Beardes-Hancock, who was with Richard for 27 years before their marriage in February, described him as a "unique, big personality who left an impression on everyone he met". Mrs Beardes-Hancock said: "He was an amazing person."

He helped a lot of different people in different ways, from just showing someone a chord on a guitar through to giving them personal advice.

"He was very clever and I don't think I knew a single subject he could not hold a conversation about. He was well-loved by so many people, from so many different walks of life."

"Through his music, he knew celebrities and famous people but he would be happy talking to anyone," Mr Hancock leaves a son Harry, aged 11, and a daughter Sophie, aged 16.

Tributes to the performer have been posted on websites, including a statement from Def Leppard guitarist Vivian Campbell.

Chief on her bike to pedal message



Councillor Pete Lowe, Neil Lissimore, Mark Sorrill, from the transportation team, and Councillor Judy Foster try out the new cycling scheme routes

A COUNCIL chief got on her bike to encourage residents to take up cycling.

Dudley Council says it wants to build on the success of the Team GB cycling teams in the London 2012 Olympics.

Part of the cycle track along the Dudley No 1 canal towpath between Waterfront Way and Pedmore Road in Brierley Hill was recently upgraded. Further improvements are planned for the route from Pedmore Road to Parkhead Locks.

It comes after Dudley Council was awarded more than £350,000 from the government's Local Sustainable Transport Fund. With more than 60,000 vehicles passing through on a daily basis, the project aims to improve the opportunities for local people to walk and cycle.

Mother locks son in car by accident

A MOTHER accidentally locked her 13-month-old toddler in her car outside her home in Dudley.

The woman, in her 20s, called fire crews after shutting the boot with the keys inside, in Highfield Road, Kates Hill, at 12.40pm on Saturday September 29.

They smashed the rear window of the blue Renault vehicle to get her son out, who had been inside the car for 20 minutes.

People called to get hands on social media

RESIDENTS in Dudley are being encouraged to use social media to contact the council as part of a national campaign.

The council is among millions of people, groups and organisations taking part in Social Media Week.

It has already included a community safety question and answers session live on Facebook with cabinet member Councillor Judy Foster, and setting up a Twitter account for people to follow the work of the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Mervyn Mottram.

The council's social media channels will also be profiled on the homepage of the website to encourage people to get involved.

Council services such as where to report litter problems, food outlet hygiene ratings and help with trader advice will also be promoted on the sites.

School road patrol back

A SCHOOL crossing patrol in Kidderminster that was withdrawn over fears that speeding drivers were putting lives at risk has been reinstated after part of the road was closed off.

Council chiefs stood the lollipop warden down after "several near miss incidents" in Birmingham Road where drivers ignored road markings. Following the move, police officers and the Worcestershire County Council's school crossing patrol supervisor took over.

But now the problem lane with hatched markings has been coned off and bosses say it is safe for the crossing

to start again. It is used by pupils at Offmire Primary and King Charles I schools and residents raised fears that a child could be hurt.

Temporary signs were put up in the area to urge motorists to slow down.

The council says a solution has now been found after discussions with police officers.

Worcestershire County Council spokesman Paul Whittaker said: "It's a real shame that because of irresponsible motorists breaking the law we had to temporarily remove the school crossing patrol for a short period whilst measures were taken to ensure their safety."

"We've worked with the local police to find a solution as quickly as possible and following the coning off of the

MP calls for flags to fly

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin is calling on businesses, schools and public buildings to follow the council's example and fly the Union Flag all year round.

He has, over the last seven years, taken several petitions signed by thousands of residents, to Dudley Council urging the authority to fly the flag.

Mr Austin said: "Getting the council to overturn the old rules and fly the flag every day was one of my pledges at the last election so I'm delighted the new leader of the Council David Sparks and his deputy Cllr Shaukat Ali have taken this decision."

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NEWS

Record bid boat will be scrapped due to arson

ADVENTURERS have been forced to scrap the building of a power-boat in Dudley and will start all over again 160 miles away after arsonists targeted the warehouse where it was being built.

Alan Priddy started work on the £1.3 million boat in June at Micklewrights, on the Thorleigh Trading Estate, Dudley, for an ambitious round-the-world attempt this November. But construction was hampered by a fire which broke out at the warehouse earlier this year.

It has now been cancelled after Mr Priddy uncovered significant heat damage to the hull of the boat.

The team have now put the challenge back a year and will start rebuilding the boat in Portsmouth.

Mr Priddy predicts £220,000 and 3,000 hours of work has been wasted.

He said: "It is a big step back, but at the end of the day, when you consider the fear it would not do the job and the very worst fear that it could kill someone, we were left with no choice but to start again."

"I was not prepared to risk the failure of this massive project and I have taken everything we have learnt and done up until now, and will improve upon it."

The decision is a set-back for the team, which was racing against time to get the boat ready for the challenge, scheduled for November 4. Structure and cabins were finished, decks were being laid and two 500 horsepower engines installed.

Mr Priddy said: "Finding out about the damage was a real kick in the teeth - but the team is incredibly resilient."

Bike father raises £1,000

A FATHER-OF-TWO raised more than £1,076 for Beacon Centre for the Blind by taking on a 60km bike challenge.

James Aust, aged 40, from Wombourne, cycled twice over the Brecon Beacons mountains for the challenge. Mr Aust is a director of Tipton-based Anderson Scott Solutions.



Alan Priddy, front, and his team with the boat before the arson attack



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NEWS

Cash given to hospitals has rocketed by 20pc

CASH generated through charitable donations to hospitals in Dudley has rocketed by 20 per cent in a year, with giving and legacies on the increase.

Bosses say they are "amazed" the public is being so generous in tough economic times.

The Dudley Group NHS Charity's income has gone up by £160,000 in 12 months, from £629,000 in 2010-11 to £790,000 in 2011-12. It has gone towards medical equipment such as microscopes, pressure monitors and hoists, while furniture, TVs and DVD players have been bought for wards.

The total charitable funds at the hospitals now stand at £2.47 million - up £218,000.

During 2011-12, £262,000 came from legacies, which was up from £239,000 the year before, and donations in memoriam were up £29,000 to £98,000.

Fundraising co-ordinator Karen Phillips said: "There are a lot more people now coming to us and saying they want to raise money for us or make a donation."

"It's great for them to be able to see where the money is going, and we are always amazed at how generous people are."

"Some charities just have a general fund but in Dudley there is the option for people to choose what their donation will pay for, so £250 could buy a television."

Of the money raised, £177,000 went towards new equipment, while £112,000 was spent on "patient welfare", which includes furniture for ward areas.

And £14,300 funded information desks near the entrance of Russell Hall to give information on services and fundraising campaigns.

Old pub is now new shop



Wordsley at a new Sainsbury's in the former Red Lion pub. Manager Stewart Wilson from Bearwood and staff member Mandy Spencer

A SAINSBURY'S store has opened following months of work to convert a former pub.

Staff and residents gathered at the shop on Lawnswood Road, Wordsley, as Dudley's Mayor, Councillor Melvyn Mottram, cut a ribbon to open the store.

The 25,000 sq ft shop has been created at the former Red Lion pub and includes an in-store bakery.

Representatives from the Phoenix Centre charity, Wordsley

opening. The charity, which runs a pre-school and playgroup for children with additional needs, is being supported by the store.

Manager Stewart Wilson said the first day of trading had been "extremely busy" and he was very pleased with the response.

He said: "It has been excellent for us so far. We have had literally hundreds of people coming in to look around the new store. The feedback

has been very positive." The store is open daily from 7am to 11pm.

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FROM £95*

- Visit to Bath Christmas market

Arranged by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Lincoln Christmas market

Two-day break departing December 8

- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to the Meadowhall shopping centre

FROM £89.95*

- Visit to Lincoln Christmas market

Arranged by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Grassington Dickensian festival and Manchester's Christmas markets

Two-day break departing December 8

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- Visit to Manchester's Christmas markets

FROM £99.95*

- Visit to the Grassington Dickensian festival

Arranged by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

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NEWS

Scrap metal anti-theft scheme members rocket

A SCRAP metal business that introduced a membership scheme to crack down on metal theft has seen its numbers rocket.

The scheme was introduced by Mason Metals, Brierley Hill.

It is for dealers wanting to sell their scrap metal legitimately and 400 new members have joined since just the start of the month. The rise coincides with the start of West Midlands Police's anti-metal theft campaign Operation Tornado on September 1.

Across the West Midlands, Staffordshire and West Mercia police force areas it is estimated metal worth more than £34 million has been taken in four years.

Brass plaques from war memorials, copper railway wiring, iron manhole covers and lead off church roofs are among items that have been taken by thieves.

Mason Metal's commercial manager, Neil Woodall, said that nearly 400 members had enrolled in the first two weeks of this month.

Owner Andrew Jones said: "Many businesses across the UK saw an initial fall in customer number when Operation Tornado began in their area so we're astounded - it looks like we'll have 1,000 members by next week if this continues."

Mason Metals, in Two Woods Lane, and sister company Halesowen Metals, in Blackheath, started their own membership scheme on a voluntary basis in January.

The business has received praise from local MPs for taking a tough stance on the issue of metal theft.

Job fair a success says MP

AN MP has hailed his latest jobs fair as a success after nearly 500 people attended.

Wyre Forest MP Mark Garnier organised the event at Kidderminster Town Hall recently. It included 35 stands and seminars throughout the day. Npower topped the list for the number of job vacancies at 50.

Local band going global



Miccoli members Adriano, Francesca and Alessandro Miccoli

MUSIC by a band from Halesowen will be heard by drivers across the globe as part of a new deal with a manufacturer.

Miccoli in Halesowen, have been chosen by bosses at Clarion to help promote a new car stereo system.

Two of their tracks will feature on

CDs being given away with every stereo sold in Asia. Bosses at the firm say they expect to sell more than 500,000 each year of the "head units".

Alessandro said: "This has given us some great exposure and is opening up a lot of opportunities for us."

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The original stage Maria helps cast climb a musical mountain



South Staffs Musical Theatre Company's Von Trapp children from The Sound of Music, led by Bridgnorth teenager Ellie Griffiths as Liesl

BEFORE Julie Andrews starred in the movie version of The Sound of Music, and decades before the stage revival starring TV show Maria, Connie Fisher, the original West End Maria was Jean Bayless.

The London-born actress and singer, who now lives in Edgbaston, recently visited Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre where South Staffs Musical Theatre Company will be presenting the classic Rodgers and Hammerstein musical from Tuesday to Saturday, October 9 to 13.

Stage star Jean came to give advice for the Black Country's Maria, Claudia Gilmour, of Wolverhampton, who will



Jean Bayless, who originally played the role of Maria in The Sound of Music, meets the Black Country's Maria Claudia Gilmour at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

star in a seven performance run of the epic musical.

The Sound of Music, famous for such songs as Climb Ev'ry Mountain and My Favorite Things, is based on the true story of how the Von Trapp Family singers escaped Nazi-run Austria.

Singing

Eighty-year-old Jean was told that she had won the role by Richard Rodgers at New York's hamburger stand more than 50 years ago.

She told Claudia: "When you sing Do-Re-Mi focus on each child. It can be hard because your are thinking about your own words but it will be worth it."

The role of Captain Von Trapp will be played by Tim Brown, of Bridgnorth.

The children are played by Ellie Griffiths, 17, of Bridgnorth, Isabelle Westley-Smith, 9, of Stourbridge, Lucy Toor, 9, of Tettenhall, Fiona Winning, 10, of Tettenhall, Thomas Withers, 11, of Kingswinford, Abigail Strudwick, 13, of Codsall, Luke Bennett, 14, of Wolverhampton, Lucy Foley, 12, of Lichfield, Emily Daniel, 11, of Cannock, Tom Harrison, 14, of Penkridge, Poppy Thompson, 14, of Wolverhampton, and Jack Harrison, 13, of Penkridge.

The youngest is seven-year-old Anna Watkin, of Kidderminster.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Dangerous days for Dodger on Dickens' London streets

Dodger – Terry Pratchett
(Doubleday, hardback, £18.99)

THE author of Discworld turns to Dickensian London, creating a back-ground story for the lad that inspired the Artful Dodger in Oliver Twist.

It's a romp that conjures up a damp and dangerous London where a grubby guttersnipe has to rely on his wits (and some brass knuckles) to survive. Pratchett weaves famous characters, both historical and fictional, into his fast-moving story including Benjamin Disraeli, Sweeney Todd and Dickens himself, as Dodger is engaged to discover more about the foreign girl he rescued from a severe beating.

A Medal For Leroy – Michael Morpurgo
(Harper Collins, hardback, £12.99)

From the author of War Horse and Private Peaceful, this novel harks back to both world wars as it reveals family secrets involving a mixed race lad growing up in 1940s London with a perky Jack Russell named Jasper.

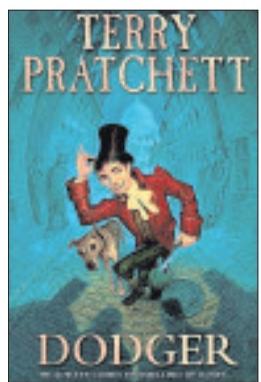
Emerald Star – Jacqueline Wilson
(Doubleday, hardback, £12.99)

Tracy Beaker author Wilson's historical epic about the changing identity of runaway Hetty Feather, to Sapphire Battersea and now Emerald Star, continues in a third and final instalment in which the cheeky redhead at last finds her father but, as usual, things don't run smoothly for Hetty.

Grimm Tales For Young and Old – Philip Pullman
(Penguin Classics, hardback, £20)

The author of the His Dark Materials trilogy retells 50 of his favourite fairy tales from the collection of German folk tales gathered in the 19th century by the Brothers Grimm.

Stories range from the well-known, such as Cinderella, to the lesser-known Hans-my-Hedgehog and Godfather Death. Pullman has opted for a "clear as water" telling of these tales, though he does comment on them with some interesting thoughts after each story.



Dodger meets Dickens in Terry Pratchett's new novel

Ratburger – David Williams
(Harper Collins, hardback, £12.99)

The comic actor's fifth children's book finds him easing into the role of a modern Roald Dahl with a cheerfully grotesque tale in which poor Zoe has to contend with a lazy step-mum, a nasty school bully and a fat burger van owner.

The Pedicab – Stefan Bachmann
(Harper Collins, hardback, £12.99)

This is a wildly imaginative first novel blending Victorian steampunk with fairy magic from a talented teenager. A half-fairy child, despised by both humans and fairyfolk, and a lazy pickpocket find themselves mixed up in murder in a story stretching from the fairy ghetto of Bath to a remarkable alternative London.

The Grimm Legacy – Polly Shulman
(OUP, paperback, £6.99)

When a New York teenager gets an after-school job at an unusual Manhattan lending library for objects, in the

basement she discovers magical items from the collection of the Brothers Grimm. But someone has been stealing from the collection and she decides to find out who in a story that will appeal to younger teens missing Harry Potter.

Gods And Warriors – Michelle Paver

(Puffin, hardback, £12.99)

Set in early Ancient Greece, this is the first of five novels. It tells of a young goatherd, Hylas, and a girl, Pirra, on the run from an arranged marriage, caught between the realms of men, the supernatural and animal kingdom. Paver, who also penned the Chronicles of Ancient Darkness and ghost story Dark Matter, has certainly researched the period and makes it accessible to pre-teens.

Zom-B – Darren Shan
(Simon & Schuster, hardback, £12.99)

The master of teen terror finally gets to zombies in what promises to be the first in a series of 15 novels at a rate of one every three months. A zombie outbreak hits London and for one teenager it's not just a fight for survival but a struggle to understand his relationship with a racist bully of a father.

The Sacrifice – Charlie Higson
(Puffin, hardback, £12.99)

Darren Shan can't yet match Higson for zombie fright thrills, which he has honed over four books. The kids are holding out in the Tower of London, surrounded by a city full of cannibal adults, in a book that's set just after The Fear but before The Enemy.

United – Kirsty MacKey

(Chicken House, paperback, £6.99)

After surviving the school trip from hell, a castle full of zombies and zombie-makers, and a rescue that goes wrong, feisty schoolgirl Bobby is back. She is on the run from the ghouls and folks behind the outbreak whilst looking for her missing pal Smitty. Fans of Undead will not be disappointed by the sequel, a mixture of action, smooth humour and tentative romance.

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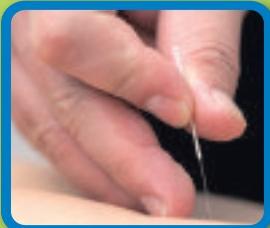
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* The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.

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REVIEWS

Ballet season raises curtain on theatre's brand new stage

Opposites Attract, Birmingham Hippodrome

BIRMINGHAM Royal Ballet were the first company to grace the new stage at their home theatre with this triple bill linked by a theme of male-female relationships.

They started with Take Five, company director David Bintley's joyful, flirtatious dances to the sound of Dave Brubeck's groovy 1950s jazz, brilliantly recreated by a quartet from the Colin Towns Band.

This light and frothy concoction seems to owe as much to the Young Generation as classical ballet.

Vibrant

It is a vibrant delight that always puts smiles on faces, especially when Carol-Anne Millar is flitting across the stage or Elisha Willis and Tyrone Singleton dance a five-minute love affair. Joseph Caley's Flying Solo routine was thrilling.

Lyric Pieces, which got its premier in Birmingham earlier this year, is an intriguing and enjoyable collection of dances choreographed by Jessica Lang to Edvard Grieg's piano music.

The only scenery is provided by reams of black corrugated paper which the dancers unfurl to create pillars, walls and bridges. At first it is gimmick-like and the rasping rustle of the paper distracting. But these dances derived from folklore are engaging with Maureya Lebowitz particularly delightful in the March of the Trolls. Pianist Jonathan Higgins was outstanding.

Final piece Grosse Fuge is a moody and passionate piece about the war of the sexes by Dutch choreographer Hans van Manen, set on a stark stage and set to the music of Beethoven.

It is a muscular work which required some of the company's finest dancers as womankind – Victoria Marr, Elisha Willis, Momoko Hirata and Samara Downs – responded to a show of strength from the men – Joseph Caley, Chi Cao, Matthew Lawrence and Iain Mackay.

It's back to the classical repertoire for the rest of the season as the BRB perform Swan Lake at Birmingham Hippodrome this week, final performance Saturday. Leon Burakowski



Joseph Caley – Flying Solo in jazz ballet Take Five

Now for something completely different

Rachel Sermanni, Glee Club Studio, Birmingham

WHILE it's too near a cliché to say Scottish singer Rachel Sermanni is unique, she does have a quality which is most definitely different.

In appearance, she is like a female Johnny Depp and even has the vulnerable quality of his character Edward Scissorhands and when on stage she has movement reminiscent of a Victorian automaton.

However, this perfectly complements her voice which is strong, versatile, has seemingly unlimited power coupled with the clarity and quality of Katie Melua.

She opened her set with Ever Since the Chocolate from her album Under Mountains when she displayed an

almost childlike quality to her singing that belies the deep clear and powerful tones she can wield at will.

Sermanni uses her guitar sparingly, relying instead upon her vocal range. She easily moved from the light ballad to a more blues-style song, Bones, where the depth and rawness of her singing would have made Janis Joplin proud.

Lyrics

She gave the packed out Glee Club Studio a glint of her lighter side with the Burger Van Song which was inspired by a particularly irritating man who sprinkled sugar on his chips instead of salt and then blamed her.

Perhaps not the greatest premise on which to base a song but she made it

work, scattering the lyrics with a pseudo-rap style which had hints of Kate Nash's pre-punk incarnation.

Sermanni has this ability to move her voice around a song like a light on a screen designed to test your reactions. The perfect illustration was I've Got a Girl, which had a broken form that musically portrayed the bizarre nature of dreams and perfectly captured the disturbing way in which images can change with no real connection, rhyme or reason. It had a staccato quality like a vocal tango.

Such is the confidence Sermanni has in her voice that towards the end of the set she unplugged her guitar and moved from the mic to treat her fans to an acoustic version of Song to a Fox.

Danny Farragher

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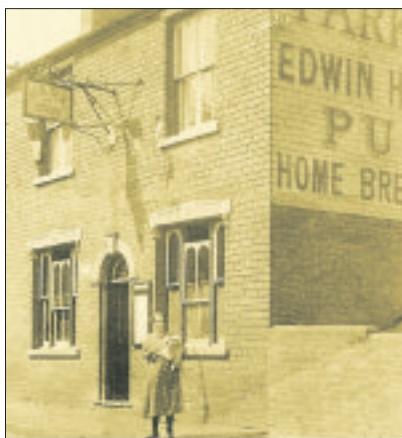
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NEWS

Brewery boss walks in great-grandma's steps



Lucie Holden who borrowed her cousin's dog to recreate the historic picture



Lucie's great-grandmother Lucy near the sign in the picture which has been recreated

More time to develop old station

College bid for £25,000 fitness run

DEVELOPERS have been given more time by planners to transform a former ambulance station in Stourbridge.

New planning laws to help construction firms keep building plans alive during the tough economic conditions have been used.

The building at the rear of the Cross Inn, Hagley Road, Oldswinford, was used as an ambulance station until 1960.

It has been used occasionally for pub storage ever since. The front of the site is a partly overgrown, and enclosed by a brick wall.

Brewery and pub group Marstons have been awarded a new three year time limit.

Gallery plan finalised

THE gallery at Kidderminster Library will make way for office staff, and a grand piano will be moved to the nearby town hall.

Worcestershire County Council wants to create offices for around 130 workers at the library.

It had proposed scrapping the gallery on the second floor to make way for the staff. But when the move was announced four months ago, arts and music groups in the town protested, prompting the council to put the plans on hold. After a public consultation, council chiefs said their "preferred option" for the site is to convert the gallery into offices, and create a smaller gallery with meeting rooms on the first floor. The piano would be moved to the Corn Exchange next to the town hall.

A BREWERY boss has walked in the footsteps of her great-grandmother to recreate a treasured photograph taken nearly 100 years ago. Lucie Holden, aged 39, was on hand for the completion of a replica sign painted on a wall at the Park Inn, Woodsetton, heralding the latest improvements at the famous Holden's Brewery.

by Lee Watton

The modern-day picture mirrors a shot taken of her great-grandmother, also called Lucy Holden, taken at the pub during the 1920s with her beloved pet dog.

A mutt was brought along for the 21st century picture after Lucie borrowed her cousin Mark Hammond's pet dog, Sam.

Lucie, who is named after her great-grandmother, is responsible for the day-to-day running of the well-brewery with brother Jonothan and sister Abi.

Her great-grandmother was the driving force behind establishing the brewery. She had married Edwin Holden in 1898 and her father persuaded them to take over the tenancy of a public house.

They purchased the freehold of the Park Inn in 1915 which proved to be a turning point as the building also had a brew

house. Lucy was responsible for the brewing which proved so popular the equipment was enlarged from within the cellar to adjacent buildings.

Edwin died in 1920 and Lucy took on the licence and expanded the business.

The modern Lucy said that in posing for the picture there had been a real connection across the generations.

Lucie, who is the brewery's estate director, said: "It was a wonderful experience being able to walk into my great-grandmother's footsteps for the picture."

"Lucy was definitely a woman ahead of her time and laid the foundations for the company as we know it today. It is great to feel that sense of connection."

£200k is secured to aid homeless people in county

COUNCILS have secured £200,000 to help people sleeping on Worcestershire's streets. It will be used to recruit workers to support rough sleepers in finding settled accommodation. Wyre Forest District Council, St Paul's Hostel and four other councils were awarded funding by Homeless

Voluntary groups are handed a cash boost

NEARLY 90 voluntary groups across the Dudley borough which help to support adults and promote social activities have been handed council funding.

A total of £47,120 has been allocated to 86 different voluntary groups as part of 2012/13 Small Grants Scheme run by Dudley Council.

Among the groups which have benefited this year are the Wall Heath Good Companions, The What Centre in Stourbridge, the African Caribbean & Community Network in Dudley and The Dudley Autistic Support Group in Quarry Bank.

The largest support grant offered through the scheme this year was for more than £1,200. The scheme is aimed particularly at groups that promote independence and social inclusion and look to extend their services to include people with disabilities and older people.

Digger hit by arsonist

ARSONISTS destroyed a golf club's maintenance digger worth £10,000.

Members of Burlish Park Golf Club, near Kidderminster, turned up to find the Sumitomo vehicle burned out. The digger was targeted between 7pm on Monday, September 17 and 9.30am on Tuesday, September 18.

No fire crews were called to the blaze at the Zortech Avenue club. The club's assistant professional, Luke Crumpton, said: "We knew nothing about it until we turned up on the morning."

Councillor Anne Hingley, Cabinet Member for Place-shaping, said funding would help rough sleepers come off streets in line with the Government's 'No Second Night Out' policy.



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CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396178 ☎

HIM Marilyn a blue eyed beauty. Call me if you have a happy outlook and are seeking some fun. Age/looks unimportant. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395665 ☎

CATHY is a slim attractive lady with an open minded attitude to life, she WLTM a man of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395657 ☎

61YR old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409

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CLARE good looking, beautiful blonde, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378209 ☎

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTM male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 371615 ☎

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317 ☎

ALICIA 19y old green eyed female, very attractive, slim, long hair, independent, looking for fun with mature male, no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390059 ☎

I'M Julie 36yrs old, attractive, fit, blonde, solvent yet with OHAC seeking man to spoil and enjoy good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395051 ☎

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818 ☎

42YR old Sagittarian 5ft 7ins, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks genuine, caring guy interested in films, meals out, country walks, gardening and travel, 45-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 385399 ☎

SUSIE gorgeously feminine and sensual, loves lazy summer days, misses male companionship WLTM someone with sense of adventure and lust for life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394117 ☎

LOUISE youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust into life. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392491 ☎

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38y old girl looking for fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363277 ☎

JOY 36 petite medium build, blue eyes, loves romantic walks, meals in/out, WLTM male 30-45 for meets. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386629 ☎

BIG bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501 ☎

CHRIS attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392401 ☎

LOUISE 35, loves meals out, with tallish, considerate mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395727 ☎

MICHELLE attractive 30's female, blonde, leggy and very much single, seeking quality company, hopefully more with nice romantic male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395178 ☎

CAROLINE 42yrs, slim attractive blonde. Varied interests and solvent. WLTM him/herself of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395675 ☎

SAMANTHA pretty brunette, very busty 36, intelligent, independent with a really lust for life, seeks big hearted stocky male/dad. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390305 ☎

YVONNE lonely 32y old single mom of one, slim, brown hair, WLTM discreet mate for mutual attention without complications. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386117 ☎

EASYGOING down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386893 ☎

LADY young 60, outgoing, friendly, smart, likes cinema, shopping, meals out, seeks similar female friends for days out and evenings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388327 ☎

PAULINE attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 379535 ☎

SARAH nice looking blue eyed slim brunette, WLTM similar lonely male for fun hopefully leading to it. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394279 ☎

MADDIE extremely passionate female 37, seeks reliable male to enjoy the finer things in life and tactile relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394565 ☎

PAULINE divorced female on the wrong side of 40 looking for adult fun with easygoing highly driven man if you get my drift? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883 ☎

SILLY male, seeks lady 35-45, size 12-18, GSOH for friendship, possibly relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394591

ANNA 29y old nurse, 6ft curvy, aburn beauty, likes cosy nights in, genuinely seeking older, well built male to look after, 40-65yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387204

BUBBLEY female, 42, young at heart, honest, caring, likes outdoors, cinema, theatre, meals out, seeks likeminded male/soul mate, 40-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375919

JESSIE single mum 24 looking for her Mr Right for equally respectful relationship, hopefully blossoming into love. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382087 ☎

SUE 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223

MORAG 21y old attractive, dark haired student nurse, new to area and very lonely seeks mature male for mutual companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391087 ☎

VICKY honest caring female 33yrs, GSOH, loves meals in/out, travel, cinema, WLTM someone to enjoy nice things in life with and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383911 ☎

DENISE tall leggy good looking single mum, easygoing, enjoys nights in/out, animals, WLTM tall male for future times possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391873 ☎

JENNIFER young 20y old looking for fun. Call me to find out more. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382091 ☎

JANE 46, single mum, N/S, romantic, likes dancing, nights out, music, seeking male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380591 ☎

KATHY caring lady 60, medium build, smoker, seeks caring, smart male 55-65 for companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387477 ☎

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377432 ☎

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383229 ☎

LADY widow, 58, slim, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks smart, intelligent, easygoing man with GSOH who enjoys conversations, days out, short breaks, meal out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387247 ☎

SALLY slim attractive feisty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTM similar male for friendship and more, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394369 ☎

WIDOW 70, genuine, kind, caring, laida/bick, seeking male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387013 ☎

EASYGOING down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386893 ☎

NATALIE 30, attractive, size 12, black, seeking male for romantic fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387753 ☎

SINGLE mum, 36, 2 children, seeks fun loving male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382595 ☎

GENUINE female, 36, blonde, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, fun, outgoing, adventurous, GSOH, looking for tall, honest, genuine male for good companion, dates and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388327 ☎

SHAPELY attractive, light skinned black female, 39, seeks attractive, fit, male, 30's, builder type, tanned, rugged for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 231125 ☎

POLLY dark hair, 50, attractive, outgoing, seeks special outgoing male for days out etc. Telford. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 371127 ☎

SIMI 32y old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393973 ☎

KAREN witty female who loves to laugh, WLTM similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391325 ☎

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-40 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391325 ☎

MADELINE 5ft black seeks male 26-41 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375789 ☎

IRENE 55, blonde hair, brown eyes, loving, caring, genuine, N/S, lots of love to give, seeks male, 55-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391325 ☎

MAUREEN seeks male 32-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 323543 ☎

SLIM professional, attractive, amiable lady, seeks genuine, articulate, professional gent, 55 plus with GSOH, who enjoys the good things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386615 ☎

33YR old black haired, medium built, 5ft 3ins female seeking soul mate. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389799 ☎

MAUREEN seeks male 32-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 323543 ☎

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NEWS

Fundraisers step out to help raise cash for charity

MORE than 450 fundraisers stepped out in the sunshine for a sponsored stroll in aid of the Alzheimer's Society.

Walkers laced up their boots recently to raise money for the charity in the annual Memory Walk around Dudley Zoo and Castle. It has already been hailed a success by organisers, who believe it has pulled in around £20,000 in sponsorship.

Sports commentator Rupert Bell, who lost his mother to Alzheimer's, joined the throng of walkers.

Among those taking part were Anita Stow, aged 34, from Broad Lanes, Bilston, and her partner Steven Gill, 30, and son Daniel Gill, nine, and Jack Gill, six.

They were walking in memory of Anita's 82-year-old grandmother, who lived with dementia for three years. Anita said: "This is a good cause to support because many people don't know a lot about dementia. Before my nan passed away, she used to wander and police would often bring her back."

Civil servant Karen Norton, 46, from Quarry Brow, Upper Gornal, chose to complete the full 10km course and a special extra 'Bupa Memory Mile' at the end to raise an extra £5 in her bid to top £120 sponsorship.

She was completing the course for her father Dennis, who is cared for at Himley Mill Nursing Home in School Road.

Mother-of-two Lyn Chung, 58, a training co-ordinator at Bupa-run Himley Mill, took on the walk for the first time this year.

Drawn to pub for a pint and portrait



Taking part in a drawing session, with model Mali, is co-organiser Sean Counley, of Kingswinford, with, right, Emma Pickett, of Wordsley, at Katie Fitzgerald's pub

THE basement of a Dudley pub has become a novel venue for artists eager to sketch live models – in the nude.

The bare necessities for the life drawing events at Katie Fitzgerald's in Stourbridge are a naked model – a different one each week, male, female and aged anywhere from 20 to 70 – and electric music to accompany the sound of sketching pencils.

The sessions are held on Mondays at 7pm downstairs at "Katie's" in Enville Street, Wollaston. Recently 10 men and women gathered to sketch grandmother Mali Morgan, from Bridgnorth.

The two-and-a-half-hour, £5-a-head sessions were launched more than two years ago by illustrator Natalie Perry and fellow artist Sean Counley. Natalie, aged 27, of Duncombe Street, Wollaston, said: "Some have a drink while they sketch – but it's very respectable."

Tickets available to attend town festival

TICKETS are still available for the Bewdley Festival. TV impressionist Alistair McGowan and former politician-turned-presenter Michael Portillo are among the big names lined up to appear this year.

The annual event features performances, talks and exhibitions at town venues featuring some of the biggest names in TV, theatre and music.

Tickets for the 25th festival, which will run from October 5 to 14, are available from Bewdley Tourist Information Centre in Lord Street. People can also call the Bewdley Festival Box Office on 01905 611427. Alternatively they can write to the box office at Worcester Live, Huntington Hall, Crowngate, Worcester, WR1 3LD.

TV impressionist Alistair McGowan will perform at the festival on the evening of October 12 and Michael Portillo two days earlier on October 10. The festival will also include musical performances by 60s band The Zombies.

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What's On! Halesowen

Recreating music hall sound of past
VISITORS will be taken back to the heyday of music hall in Halesowen with a performance tomorrow.

Songsters Denith and Price will break off their tour of Worcestershire Women's Institutes to provide the entertainment for the St Peter's Church event on Friday October 5.

Organisers have switched the event to The Laurels club, Windmill Hill, Cradley. It starts at 7pm with tickets £7 for adults and £3.50 for children including a fish and chip supper with dessert. Call Rev Kathryn Leclercio on 0121 550 1158 for details.

Tribute to the King of Pop Jackson

A TRIBUTE to Michael Jackson will be staged at Dudley Town Hall on October 25.

The show, called Ben, will feature songs from throughout the King of Pop's career. It starts at 2pm and is part of a series of matinee shows at the venue.

To book contact the box office on 01384 812812 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment

Glamour Puss Ball

Birmingham City Hospital staff are holding a fundraising ball.

The Glamour Puss Ball will be held in Dudley on Friday October 5 from 7pm to 12.30am at The Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill. Tickets are £30 each. Call 0121 507 5209 or email Alison.eccleshall@nhs.net.

A NEW stage version of Charles Dickens' Great Expectations is coming to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre before being staged in London's West End.

The classic Victorian novel, about the sudden elevation of young blacksmith Pip into middle class society thanks to a mystery benefactor, has recently been turned into a popular BBC TV series, with Gillian Anderson as the wraith-like manipulator Miss Havisham.

That same role will be played by Helena Bonham Carter in the forthcoming movie version.

In this new stage adaptation by playwright Jo Clifford, Dickens' novel has been condensed into just over two hours of action set in Miss Havisham's grand gothic dining room.

Paula Wilcox (Hilary Potts in Emmerdale) will play Miss Havisham with Chris Ellison (from The Bill) as escaped convict Magwitch and Jack Ellis (from Coronation Street) as the lawyer Jaggers. The roles of young and old Pip will be shared by two actors.

Directed and co-designed by Graham McLaren, who made the National Theatre of Scotland's acclaimed production of A Christmas Carol, it has been described as a quick-fire and audacious production.

It is on from October 9-13.

Festival is to take over city

DESPITE the chill in the air, the festival season is not quite over, though it has gone indoors.

The 2012 OxjamBrum Takeover Festival, on for 12 hours from 2pm on Saturday, October 13, will feature gigs at several city centre venues featuring singer-songwriter Scott Matthews and more than 40 other acts in aid of Oxfam.

PInk

Wristbands cost £10 in advance, for details see the oxjambrum.org.uk website.

Other big news includes PInk announcing a second gig at the LG Arena. She will be appearing on April 21 and 22 next year. Tickets cost from £39.50 to £46 plus fees. Call 0844 338 8000.



Gothic expectations – a scene from the new touring production of Great Expectations

Sports club will hold variety night
A VARIETY show for Macmillan Cancer Support is due to take place this week.

The gala night will be at Cradley Sports and Social Club, Colley Lane, Halesowen, October 4 at 8pm and will feature guitarists, comedians, singers and a ventriloquist.

Brian Williams, event organiser, said: "I was diagnosed with cancer in 2009 and am now in remission after being treated at New Cross Hospital. Macmillan were a great help during the worst time, I simply wish to give something back."

Veteran comedian Davidson in town

VETERAN comedian Jim Davidson will play Dudley Town Hall on October 11.

The show, called The Legend, starts at 8pm and tickets cost £20.

The comic shot to fame on talent show New Faces in the 1970s before taking over from Bruce Forsyth on the Generation Game in the 1990s.

To book contact the box office on 01384 812812 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment.

Party sounds

Party sounds band The Foundations will play on Saturday (6) at The Knights Quest pub, Blackheath High Street. Entrance is £3 with the party continuing until 2am. And on Sunday (7) there will be the Starmakers karaoke party night.

Tour is top of the flops

THE stage tour of Top of the Pops Live, which was due to visit Wolverhampton and Birmingham, has been cancelled due to poor ticket sales.

The show, starring TV and radio presenters Sam Nixon and Darlaston-born Mark Rhodes, had been due to be staged at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from October 29 to November 3. It has also been due at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from March 4 to 9 next year.

Show producers Flying Entertainment said they made the decision to cancel due to "disappointing demand" across the country.

Grand Theatre spokeswoman Vicki Price said theatre bosses were "frustrated" because more than £3,000 of tickets had been sold. "This suggests it would have been popular with Wolverhampton theatre goers," she said.

Anyone who has already booked can get a full refund from venue box offices.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 6.10.12

CHOICE



Bradley James

**Merlin
BBC1, 7.45pm**

It seems the world can't get enough of the Beeb's Arthurian adventure saga, so there will be a lot of happy fans when the saga returns for a fifth run this week. In the opener, Camelot looks more prosperous than ever, but in the frozen north, men are vanishing without explanation. King Arthur (Bradley James) and his knights risk life and limb to find out why, but to get answers, Merlin must first fight a battle that pushes him to his limits. As ever, the cast includes Richard Wilson as Merlin's mentor, Gaius with Angel Coulby and Katie McGrath.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigellissima. **(R) 12.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Formula 1: Japanese Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. **2.15** Bargain Hunt. **3.15** Escape to the Chateau. **(R) 4.00** Final Score. **5.10** News: Regional News. **5.30** All New Total Wipeout.

6.30 Strictly Come Dancing. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly host the second of this weekend's live shows, as the remainder of the couples take to the floor with either a cha-cha-cha or waltz. Zoe Ball returns with Strictly Come Dancing: It Takes Two on Monday.

7.45 Merlin. New series. King Arthur and his knights travel to the frozen north in search of several men who have disappeared, only for Merlin to find himself battling fate itself.

8.30 The National Lottery: Secret of the Quiz. High-tension quiz show, presented by Nick Knowles. Sisters Sonia and Soraya attempt to win the top prize of £100,000.

9.20 Casualty. Denise announces she is leaving Holby with the children, leading a devastated Linda to throw herself into her work, while a patient alerts the staff to a thief in the ED.

10.10 BBC News: Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Manchester City v Sunderland; National Lottery Update.

11.50 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two.

1.05 Weatherview. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.05** Animal Park. **(R) 1.05** Film: Tarzan's Greatest Adventure. **(1959) 2.30** Film: The Lizzie McGuire Movie. **(2003) 4.00** Film: Easy Virtue. **(2008) 5.30** Wartime Farm. **(R)**

6.30 Flog It! Paul Martin meets members of the public keen to sell their belongings at auction in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. He also discovers how to make a traditional trug basket. **(R)**

7.30 Dad's Army. Jones is given some black-market pigeons – but soon discovers they were taken from Trafalgar Square. Originally broadcast in October 1977. **(R)**

8.00 Stephen's True Story of Life Below Stairs. Pamela Cox uncovers tales of servant rebellion during the Edwardian era, as employees began to question the merits of a life spent in service. **(R)**

9.00 QI XL. Extended version of the quiz. Stephen Fry poses questions about people who have been associated with "J" to Katy Brand, Sue Perkins and David Mitchell.

9.45 Arena: Magical Mystery Tour Revisited. The making of the Beatles' TV film Magical Mystery Tour, which originally aired on Boxing Day 1967 to the height of the band's popularity – but was greeted with critical disdain.

10.45 Film: **Magical Mystery Tour.** (1967) Musical comedy, directed by and starring the Beatles.

11.40 How the Brits Rocked America: Go West. **(R)**

12.40 Sings the Beatles. **(R) 1.10** Film: Daddy and Them. **(2002) 3.15 Close.**

ITV1

6.00 CITV: CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.20** The X Factor. **(R) 12.40** ITV News; Weather. **12.45** Film: Star Trek: Episode II: The Phantom Menace. **(1999) 3.00** Film: Regional Programme; Weather. **5.45** ITV News: Weather.

6.00 New You've Been Framed! Comedian Harry Hill narrates a fresh selection of comical clips filmed by viewers on their camcorders, mobile phones and webcams.

6.30 Fool Britannia. Hidden-camera show in which Dom Joly and his team of pranksters and oddballs characters on unsuspecting members of the public across the nation.

7.00 Take Me Out. New series. A postman, a personal trainer, a musician and a student try to impress a new line-up of 30 single women.

8.00 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary presents the first live show of the competition. The remaining acts take to the stage in the hope of impressing the judges and millions of viewers at home. The results are tomorrow at 8pm.

10.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. With Stephen Fry and Taylor Swift.

11.20 ITV News: Weather.

11.40 Film: **Before Sunset.** **(2004)** Romantic drama sequel, starring Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy.

1.00 The Story. ITV News Headlines. **3.00** Ladette to Lady: Australia. **(R) 3.50** ITV: Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Hoobs. **(R) 6.30** British F3. **6.55** International Volleyball. **(R) 7.50** Channel 4 Presents – Jonnie. **(R) 7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** Adele: Real Stories. **10.00** T4: Justin Bieber: London Live. **11.15** Tat's Review. **11.30** Suburbia. **(R) 12.20** T4: The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 12.50** T4: The Simpsons. **(R) 1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **3.35** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **4.20** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **4.45** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **5.25** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **5.55** Come Dine with Me: Ireland.

6.25 Channel 4 News.

6.55 4Thought. **(T)** A pagan witch voices her beliefs about over-population.

7.00 Jaws: The Great White Myth. The story of how Steven Spielberg's 1975 blockbuster about a great white shark terrorizing a small island community had a massive impact on the world's oceans and their inhabitants.

8.00 Comedy World Cup. Andy Parsons, Jon Richardson and the Chuckle Brothers take on Omid Djalili, Daniel Stoenescu and Pals as the comedy quiz tournament continues. David Tennant asks the questions.

9.00 The Million Pound Drop Live. Keith Lemon and Patsy Kensit team up for the quiz in which contestants can win £1 million, but lose money for giving incorrect answers. Davina McCall asks the questions.

10.35 Film: **Panic Room.** **(2002)** Thriller, starring Jodie Foster.

12.45 Film: **Sancharan.** **(2004)** 2.45 Hollywoods. **4.50** Deal or No Deal. **(R) 5.45** Countdown. **(R)**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.10 Looney Tunes. (R) 11.20** Looney Tunes. **(R) 11.30** Film: The Towering Inferno. **(1974) Disaster** Film. **11.45** Film: The War of the Worlds. **(1953) Disaster** Film. **12.15** Film: The War of the Worlds. **(1953) Disaster** Film. **1.45** Film: Gremlins 2: The New Batch. **(1990) Joe Dante's** comedy sequel, starring Zach Galifian, Phoebe Cates, John Glover and Christopher Lee.

7.50 5 News Weekend.

7.55 Film: **Battle of Britain.** **(1969)** The Royal Air Force under the leadership of Air Chief Marshal Hugh Dowding defend Britain from the might of the Luftwaffe. Second World War drama, with Laurence Olivier and Michael Caine.

10.20 CSI: Miami. The team investigates the assassination of a billionaire, and Loman discovers the killing may be linked to a prototype for a revolutionary new bullet.

11.15 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. The team investigates the shooting of a psychic in her occult shop. The team race to prevent a robbery, but the post-mortem suggests the attack was premeditated. **(R)**

12.15 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **4.00** HouseBusters. Life-enhancing changes to a home. **(R) 4.25** Divine Designs. **(R) 5.00** Rough Guide to Beaches. **(R) 5.10** Milkshake! Show. The young trio to cheer up Milly. **(R) 5.35** Thomas & Friends. **(R) 5.45** Roary the Racing Car. Big Chris forgets Marsha's birthday. **(R) 2005**

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel. **8.00** Top Gear. **9.00** Live at the Apollo. **9.45** Russell Howard's Good News. **10.20** All American Dad Weekend.

BBC Four

7.00 Human Planet. **8.00** Explosions: How We Shook the World. **9.00** Inspector Montalbano. **10.40** The Story of Light Entertainment.

ITV2

4.20 The X Factor. **5.40** Film: Free Willy. **(1993) 8.00** Film: Back to the Future. **(1985) 10.20** The Xtra Factor. **11.20** Take Me Out – The Gossip.

ITV3

3.40 Agatha Christie's Poirot. **5.50** Murder, She Wrote. **6.50** Foyle's War. **9.00** Vera. **DCI Stanhope** investigates a murder at a remote cottage in Northumberland. **11.00** Crime Connections.

ITV4

3.00 Desperate Housewives. **4.00** Revenge. **5.00** How I Met Your Mother. **6.00** The Big Bang Theory. **7.30** Rules of Engagement. **8.30** Suburgatory. **9.00** David Blaine's Street Magic. **10.00** Film: Sex Drive.

Film4

3.45 Meet Dave. **(2008) 5.30** Bride Wars. **(2008) 7.20** The Man. **(2005) Comedy, starring Samuel L. Jackson, Eugene Levy and Miguel Ferrer.** **9.00** Mission: Impossible 2. **(2000) 9.45** Mission: Impossible 3. **(2006) 10.45** The Howling. **(1981) 11.25** Saw II. **(2005)**

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What's On!**SUNDAY'S TV 7.10.12****CHOICE****Andrew Marr****Andrew Marr's History of the World****BBC1, 9pm**

Say what you like about Andrew Marr, his latest series is nothing if not ambitious. He has just eight weeks to explain, well, everything - although he's been surprisingly comprehensive thus far, having covered topics from humanity's earliest roots in Africa, the earliest civilisations, and the first great empires. And that was in just two episodes. This week, he looks at the spiritual revolutions that took place around the world between 300BC and 700AD. It was an age that saw Buddhism, Christianity and Islam develop.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.** **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics; Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.20** Britain Grand Prix. (R) **1.20** Castle in the Attic. **2.05** Formula 1: Japanese Grand Prix Highlights. **4.05** A Question of Sport: 2012 Olympics Special. (R) **4.40** Points of View. **4.55** Songs of Praise. **5.30** Planet Earth Live: A Meerkat's Tale. **6.30** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
- 7.00 Countryfile.** Matt Baker explores Northumberland's bluestone boulders to reveal why farmers had to build dry-stacked houses, and Adam Henson finds out if dung beetles could help boost his crops. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
- 8.00 Antiques Roadshow.** New series. Fiona Bruce and the experts visit Ross Marquand in Northants to find out if a gold cup and a Victorian book are genuine. Red button viewers can play along by guessing valuations.
- 9.00 Andrew Marr's History of the World.** The spiritual revolutions that shook the world between 300BC and 700AD.
- 10.00 BBC News;** Regional News; Weather.
- 10.25 Match of the Day 2.** Including highlights of Newcastle United v Manchester United. **11.45 Film:** Halloween H20. (1998)
- 1.05 The Sky at Night.** **1.25** Weatherview. **1.30** Sign Zone: Andrew Marr's History of the World. (R) **2.30** Holby City. (R) **3.30** The Paradise. (R) **4.30** BBC News. **4.10 Close.**

BBC2

- 6.00 CBeebies.** **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Great British Cake Off. (R) **12.30** Film: Safari. (1956) **1.55** Film: The Long Ships. (1963) **4.00** Flog It! **5.30** Rugby by the Sea. **6.00** Great Barrier Reef. Monty Halls reveals how an array of creatures travels thousands of miles to visit the reef, and considers how climate change could affect its future. Last in the series. (R)
- 7.00 Top Gear.** Jeremy Clarkson and James May pay tribute to Swedish car manufacturer Saab. Doctor Who star Matt Smith gets behind the wheel of the Reasonably Priced Car. (R)
- 8.00 Built in Britain.** Part one of two. Evan Davis explores the engineering challenges facing 21st-century Britain and goes behind the scenes of projects updating the nation's infrastructure.
- 9.00 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.** Two graduates seek funding for their update of a 200-year-old invention, which they believe will create a new form of street advertising.
- 10.00 Mock the Week.** With guests Ed Byrne, Alun Cochrane and Gary Delaney. (R)
- 10.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks.** With Wretch 32, Gareth Malone and guest host Anne Hegerty. (R)
- 11.00 Film:** The Quiet American. (2002) Drama based on Graham Greene's novel, starring Michael Caine, Brendan Fraser, Do Thi Hai Yen, Rade Serbedzija and Tzi Ma.
- 12.35 Formula 1:** Japanese Grand Prix Highlights. (R) **2.35** BBC News. **4.10 Close.**

ITV1

- 6.00 CITV.** **9.25** ITV News. **9.30 House Gift.** (R) **10.25** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **11.30** London Triathlon. **7.55** Channel 4 Presents – Lee, (R) **8.00** Will & Grace. (R) **8.30** The Devil & Grace. (R) **8.55** Friends. (R) **8.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.45** The She Wrote. (R) **1.40** The X Factor. (R) **3.55** The Home of Fabulous Cakes. **5.00** Downton Abbey. (R)
- 6.00 Cornwall with Caroline Quentin.** Representatives from a luxury accommodation service visit a converted country barn. (R)
- 6.30 Regional Programme;** Weather.
- 6.40 ITV News;** Weather.
- 6.55 The Chase: Celebrity Special.** Ruthie Henshall, Owen Feltz, Laila Rouass, Vanessa Feltz and Tim Vine try to win cash for charity by outwitting one of the show's resident trivia experts: Bradley Walsh hosts. Last in the series.
- 8.00 The X Factor Results.** Dermot O'Leary reveals the results of the bottom two and the acts in the bottom two have to sing for survival. With performances by Leona Lewis and Ne-Yo.
- 9.00 Downton Abbey.** Branson's political views land him in trouble. Ethel makes a difficult decision about her son's future. Anna is diagnosed with uterine fibroids, and Carson begins recruiting a footman.
- 10.05 ITV News;** Weather.
- 10.20 The Classic Brit Awards 2012.**
- 11.50 Premiership Rugby Union.** **12.35** The Store; ITV News Headlines. **2.40** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.30** Motorsport UK. **4.20** TV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News. **6.00 Close.**

CHANNEL 4

- 6.30 Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard.** (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** London Triathlon. **7.55** Channel 4 Presents – Lee, (R) **8.00** Will & Grace. (R) **8.30** The Devil & Grace. (R) **8.55** Friends. (R) **8.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.05** The Simpsons. **3.35** Film: My Best Friend's Wedding. (1997) **4.35** Deal or No Deal. **5.35** Film: Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs. (2009)
- 7.20 Channel 4 News.**
- 7.50 48th Night.** Professional bartenders teach mother-of-two Bryony Anne Leatherbarrow shares her belief that human beings are at their best in romantic relationships.
- 7.55 The Political Slot.** With Stratford-on-Avon MP Nadhim Zahawi.
- 8.00 Kevin McCloud's Man Made Home.** The Grand Designs presenter searches for innovative and original solutions for his cabin, examining an experiment in north Wales where dog excrement is being used to create methane.
- 9.00 Homeland.** New series. Return of the award-winning thriller starring Claire Danes and Damian Lewis. Carrie's mental health begins to improve – until an old asset resurfaces.
- 10.05 Friday Night Dinner.** New series. Return of the comedy, starring Simon Bird.
- 10.35 Film:** Bruno. (2009)
- 11.10 Comedy World Cup.** (R) **1.05** American Football Live. **4.45** Grudge Match. (R) **4.50** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.45** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!** Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. **6.25** City of Friends. (R) **7.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **8.50** Flashback. (R) **9.00** Alice in Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Play! (R) **7.35** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.45** Milkshake!
- 7.00 Julia Bradbury's Canal Walks**
- 7.30 The Story of...** (R) **8.00** Neil Diamond: Solitary Man **10.00** Love Me Do **62**
- 11.00** The Best of Kenny Everett's Television Shows – Part 1 **11.35** Best Possible Taste: The Kenny Everett Story
- ITV2**
- 2.50 Film:** Peter Pan (2003) **5.00** Take Me Out **6.05** Take Me Out – The Gossip **6.50** Film: Back to the Future Part II (1989) **9.00** The Xtra Factor (R) **8.00** The Big Breakfast **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **11.45** Girlyminds **11.45** Fearne and James Blunt
- ITV3**
- 4.50 Film:** The Intelligence Men (1965) **6.55** Lewis **9.00** An Audience with Lionel Richie **10.05** Film: Arthur (1981)
- ITV4**
- 11.00** Live British Touring Car Championship **6.00** Goodwood Revival 2012 **7.00** The Sweeney **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: The Quest (1996) **11.00** Film: We Own the Night (2007)
- E4**
- 3.20** Ugly Betty **4.15** New Girl **4.40** Suburgatory **5.10** Revenge **6.10** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Crocodile Dundee (1986) Comedy, starring Paul Hogan. **10.00** 2 Broke Girls **10.30** The Inbetweeners **11.35** New Girl
- Film4**
- 2.45** The 7th Voyage of Sinbad (1958) **4.30** Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home (1986) **6.55** She's the Man (2006) **9.00** Keeping Mum (2005) **11.05** The Escapist (2008)

DIGITAL

- BBC Three**
- 7.00** Be Your Own Boss **8.00** Gavin & Stacey **9.00** All American Dad! **10.45** Family Guy **11.25** Cuckoo **11.35** Russell Howard's Good News
- BBC Four**
- 7.00** Julia Bradbury's Canal Walks **7.30** The Story of... (R) **8.00** Neil Diamond: Solitary Man **10.00** Love Me Do **62**
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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Kingdom of Heaven, Channel 5, 11pm
A French blacksmith joins a crusade to Jerusalem, where he becomes a knight and pledges to defend the city and its people. However, the ailing king has little time to live, while his hold on the fragile peace between Christians and Muslims looks set to slip as factions on both sides plan to seize power. Ridley Scott's historical epic, starring Orlando Bloom, Eva Green, Liam Neeson and Edward Norton. (2005)

TUESDAY
Mamma Mia!, ITV1, 8pm

A former member of a singing trio running a hotel on a Greek island is reunited with her old bandmates for her daughter's wedding – but is surprised when three of her old flames also show up unexpectedly. The three men have been invited by the bride, who wants to find out which one of them is her father. Musical comedy, with a soundtrack of Abba songs, starring Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Julie Walters, Colin Firth, Stellan Skarsgård and Amanda Seyfried. (2008)



Sliding Doors, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.15pm

WEDNESDAY
Sliding Doors, BBC1, 11.15pm

A London woman's entire life hinges on whether or not she catches a train. In one version of events, she gets the chance to start afresh and lead a happy new life, but in the other she is stuck supporting her lazy, unfaithful boyfriend. Comedy drama, presenting two parallel stories featuring the same character. Starring Gwyneth Paltrow, John Hannah, John Lynch, Jeanne Tripplehorn, Zara Turner, Douglas McFerran, Paul Brightwell and Nina Young. (1998)

THURSDAY
Mystery Woman: Oh Baby, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Amateur detective Samantha Kinsey discovers a body on a golf course and the police immediately suspect the groundskeeper, who goes on the run. However, the sleuth is convinced he is innocent – but she has more on her hands than just the case when the fugitive's wife asks her to look after their baby son. Detective drama, starring Kellie Martin and Clarence Williams III. (2006)

FRIDAY
The Draughtsman's Contract, BBC2, 12.55am

An English noblewoman employs an artist to paint pictures of her husband's estate in exchange for sex – and matters are soon complicated when her daughter becomes involved in the secret arrangement. Peter Greenaway's drama, starring Anthony Higgins, Janet Suzman, Anne-Louise Lambert and Hugh Fraser. (1982)

Pick of the Week

Young wizard makes another magical return

In 1979, the BBC made *The Legend of King Arthur*, a version of the oft-told tale of brave knights, legendary sword Excalibur and the Lady of the Lake.

Andrew Burt (*Emmerdale's* first *Jack Pudding*) played Arthur, and Robert Edeson (Indiana Jones and *The Last Crusade*) was his faithful sorcerer Merlin. It was worthy, but dull; little wonder the seven-part saga died a death after one series.

These days many viewers want their Arthurian legends to look like Hollywood blockbusters rather than dusty old dramas, which is probably why Merlin is still going strong after four years.

Admittedly, there were a few problems when it debuted in 2008, not least the comparison with the voice of John Hurt who kept repeating the sorcerer's name every 30 seconds. Thankfully, the script has improved a lot since then, so there will be a lot of happy fans as the saga returns for a fifth run.

In the opener, Camelot looks more prosperous than ever, but in

the frozen north, men are vanishing without explanation.

King Arthur (Bradley James) and his band of misfits have to figure out why, but to get answers, Merlin (Colin Morgan) must first fight a battle that pushes him to his limits.

Of course, had the Harry Potter saga not been such a huge success, there's a good bet Merlin the series would have never been given a green light.

But with young British wizards being a lucrative commodity, creators Julian Jones, Julian Murphy, Johnny Capps and Jake Michie decided to strike while the iron was hot and get their show out to the masses.

With the first series averaging an audience of 6.2 million an episode, BBC bosses soon waved their magic wand and commissioned a second run. Why does series regular Anthony Head (Uther) think Merlin has succeeded where so many similar shows fail?

"If you handle fantasy right and don't take your audience for granted and basically try to push the

envelope a little bit, you get a very interesting show," he explains. "People have tried before and failed because of not observing the above."

In the early days Head, who returns later in this run, was worried that the part of Uther would be a disappointment to himself and fans of the legend.

"When I first was offered the show I was a little worried that my character and the show might be a little bit two-dimensional, and might be a bit young," he admits. "But I was assured that from the outset ... that's not their intention and they wanted it to have several levels and basically give the audience plenty of dark to go with the light."

He adds: "It's sold worldwide to an incredible number of territories and at the same time does really good business on the night."

Though the Beeb apparently planned five series from the outset, as many are transfixed by Merlin's magic, it wouldn't be much of a shock if he and Arthur returned for more after this run.



Colin Morgan stars in Merlin, Saturday, BBC1, 7.45pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
EastEnders
BBC1, 8pm

Poor Lola – she may be young, stroppy, and silly enough to be impregnated by her murderous cousin Ben, but that doesn't mean she doesn't want to be a good mum to her baby daughter. After a hearing at the youth court, Lola fears she might have lost Lexi for good, but Cora urges her to keep fighting for her child. However, she probably didn't think the troubled teen would take her words quite so literally, as Lola loses her temper and throws the social worker's notes across the room. That's really not the way to convince the authorities she can be a responsible mother.

Monroe
ITV1, 9pm

The Beeb may have cracked the art of creating long-running medical dramas such as *Casualty* and *Holby City*, but *ITV1* have had trouble in that department. *Medics*, *A&E* and *The Golden Hour* have all come and gone, but as Monroe touched a chord with millions last year, there's a chance James Nesbitt's series could run and run. During the latest rounds, the eponymous neurosurgeon has to choose between trainees Springer and Wilson, both equally deserving of a place on his team, while Bremer and Shepherd's relationship shows signs of strain. Plus, Gabriel faces one of the most challenging cases of his career when he treats a woman with an aggressive brain tumour. Sarah Parish, Tom Riley and Neil Pearson also star.

TUESDAY
Emmerdale
ITV1, 7pm

There's not long to go until the folks of Emmerdale celebrate their 40th anniversary with a special live episode. However, while fans count the days until that event, there's still plenty to tide them over with this to Yorkshire's most scandal-riddled TV village. In the latest offering, Cain is concerned with Chas's cash flow problems, but she's adamant she doesn't need his help. Things take a dramatic turn when Cain tells Debbie it was Chas that robbed the pub. His concerned daughter wants answers, so little wonder Chas feels rotten as Debbie has a go at her for lying and letting Cameron get dragged into the accusations.

Person of Interest
Channel 5, 9pm

It's time to get Carter. No, not the character played by Michael Caine so memorably in the classic British gangster flick of the same name – and not the distinctly less fascinating one portrayed by Sylvester Stallone in the woeful US remake either. Instead, this Carter is a detective called Joss. Reese and Finch have to find a way to buy her silence – preferably by killing her. They draw up a list of three possible perpetrators, but they might not have to worry about her for



Grand Designs, Wednesday, Channel 4, 9pm

WEDNESDAY
Grand Designs
Channel 4, 9pm

Kevin McCloud seems to be everywhere at the moment. This weekend (October 12-14) he's fronting *Grand Designs Live* in Birmingham; there's more *Man Made Home* on *Channel 4* Sundays as he continues to work on his eco-shed, and now there's another new helping of the show that made his name. This week he's off to see a dramatic new cutting-edge home by the River Thames, the brainchild of Nigel and Lysette Offley.

They want to build it in the middle of a community dominated by pricey traditional houses. Although many people would love to live in a charming old boat-house by the Thames, the Offleys have decided to tear the whole thing down and start again.

THURSDAY
Homefront
ITV1, 9pm

Claire should be beside herself with glee because Pete is home. The problem is, she hasn't yet told him she's got a job, and is busy trying to keep from him the fact that his teenage daughter, Millie, has been sleeping with Rob, one of the soldiers in his battalion. Incredibly, Claire is so busy she doesn't even notice that her own son, Sam, is so sick of having his stepsister steal the limelight from him that he's decided to leave home. Meanwhile, Tasha struggles to cope on her return to work and plans to set up her own business with her mum – until she catches Cheryl in bed with her boyfriend, who's determined to take her back to Spain with him.

FRIDAY
Live International Football
ITV1, 7.30pm

England welcome football minnows San Marino to Wembley Stadium for this evening's 2014 World Cup Group H qualifier, where anything other than an emphatic win for Roy Hodgson's men will be seen as a poor performance. There have only been two previous meetings between the nations, both of which were part of the qualifying process for the 1990 World Cup. While many familiar with that campaign will not remember the 6-0 victory claimed by England on home soil, most will recall the reverse fixture that saw England go a goal behind after just eight seconds when Davide Guaiteri capitalised on a short backpass by Stuart Pearce, a lead San Marino held for 20 minutes.

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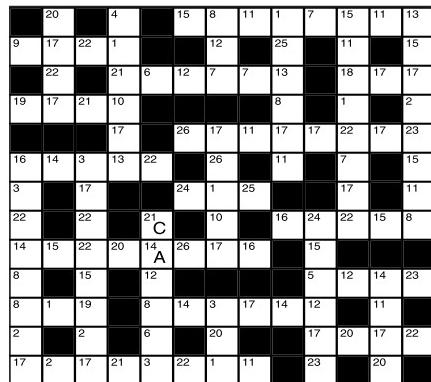
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What's On!**Brain Gym**

No.189

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

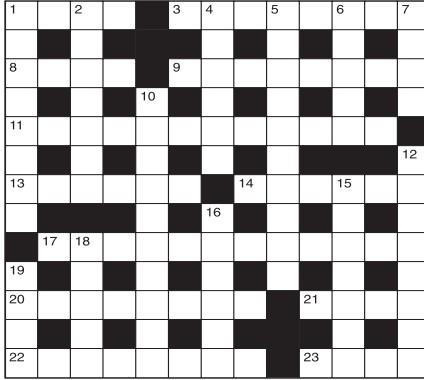
A	H	B	V	C	F	M	N	P	S	Y	K
T	E	G	Z	O	Q	R	W	J	L	D	X

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:**Across**

- Yet it's work for actors (4)
- Variety of liqueur (3,5)
- As an afterthought, they crawl (4)
- Not accidentally engaged? (8)
- A chess match, for example? (5,7)
- Mail for the landlord (6)
- Finally captured an earthwork (5)
- Half of the record team (4)
- One art that's becoming decorative (6)
- He's responsible for the classroom's re-organisation (12)
- For which one needs to be in fighting form? (5,3)
- Sparkling wine from Castile (4)
- High points of religious architecture (8)
- Looks both ways (4)
- Don't miss the delivery, but co-operate (4,4)
- Serpent has to stop on the road (7)
- Bird allowed outside the inn (6)
- Not as inert as loud (10)
- Finally captured an earthwork (5)
- Half of the record team (4)
- Groundless rumour that there's unemployment? (4,6)
- Almost a hit with the girl (4,4)
- Its rate is adjusted for a professional performer (7)
- Disturb a sleep, if you don't mind (6)
- A girl left in custody (5)
- Legislative measures followed by Romans (4)

Down**Quick Clues:****Across**

- Persia (4)
- Cherished (8)
- Locate (4)
- To loose (8)
- Mass (12)
- Contemporary (6)
- Revenue (6)
- Bubbling (12)
- Dreadful (8)
- Moist (4)
- Praised (8)
- Pure (4)
- Example (8)
- Object (7)
- Fester (6)
- Cunning (10)
- Surpass (5)
- Dispatch (4)
- Unimportant (10)
- Sixfold (8)
- Daunt (7)
- Develop (6)
- Chief (5)
- Footwear (4)

Down

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	7	6	8	9	5	3	4	2
4	2	8	1	7	3	5	6	9
3	9	5	6	4	2	7	8	1
9	3	4	7	2	8	5	6	0
7	5	1	6	3	4	2	1	6
5	8	2	3	6	7	9	1	4
6	1	7	5	3	9	2	8	4
8	4	9	2	1	7	6	3	5
2	5	3	4	8	6	9	1	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Yells in pain; 9 Arbutus; 10 Notch; 1 Bow; 12 Drawn up; 13 Pebble; 15 Peeped; 18 Earred; 20 Trap; 22 Create; 23 Parcel; 24 Rounding lard; Down: 2 Elbow; 3 Lateral; 4 Inside; 5 Panda; 6 Intense; 7 Gay; bachelor; 8 Shapeliness; 14 Barrage; 16 Entral; 17 Keep on; 19 Creed; 21 Aebean. QUICK - Across: 1 Catastrophe; 9 Failure; 10 Lotto; 11 Emend; 12 Ditches; 13 Absurd; 15 Gifted; 18 Holiday; 20 Solar; 22 Limit; 23 Transit; 24 Information. Down: 2 Agile; 3 Asunder; 4 Treads; 5 Owl; 6 Hatchet; 7 After a while; 8 Considerate; 14 Solomon; 16 Instant; 17 System; 19 Ditto; 21 Lasso.

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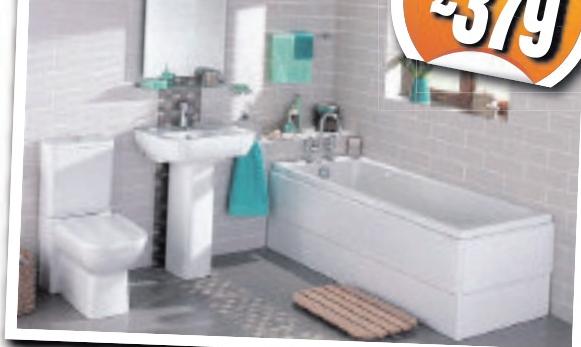


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Village life can be yours to enjoy for £295,000

A HOUSE in the heart of the highly sought after conservation village of Belbroughton is on the market with a guide price of £295,000.

The Corner House in Church Hill – an attached property – has been tastefully updated to provide light and spacious accommodation with great charm featuring oak and reclaimed internal doors and an abundance of oak beams.

The dining room has a period cast iron fireplace, exposed ceiling beams and a quarry tiled floor, while the adjoining family room has a wood burning stove and oak boarded floors with a door to the side garden.

Vaulted

The twin aspect sitting room features an inglenook-style fireplace, tall vaulted beam ceiling and oak boarded floor, while the comprehensively fitted kitchen has granite work surface and splashbacks, one and a half bowl sink and full range of appliances.

The first floor is centred around a landing with exposed purling and cruck beams, with three good sized bedrooms and a bathroom.

To the front of the house is a path set between dwarf box hedging and to the side a triangular paved garden.

To the rear is a south-facing courtyard garden with a level lawn and extensive paved seating area.

There is a vehicular right of way leading to a rear private parking area, with planning permission granted for the construction of a garage.

For a viewing contact Andrew Grant on 01905 734735 or Email country.homes@andrew-grant.co.uk

See the website at www.andrew-grant.co.uk for further details.



To the front of the house in Belbroughton is a path set between dwarf box hedging and to the rear a south-facing courtyard garden with lawn and large, paved, seating area



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Halesowen

- * Detached Bungalow
- * Sought after location
- * Three Bedrooms
- * Spacious Accommodation
- * Private Rear Garden
- * No Upward Chain

Offers in the region of £365,000



Halesowen

- * Detached
- * through living room
- * play room
- * conservatory
- * three bedrooms

Offers in the region of £189,950



Birmingham Quinton

- * Semi detached
- * two reception rooms
- * three bedrooms
- * side garage
- * no upward chain

Offers in the region of £179,950



Halesowen

- * Much Improved and Recently modernised
- * Three Bedrooms
- * Re-fitted Kitchen/Diner
- * Re-fitted Bathroom
- * Off road parking
- * No upward chain

Offers in the region of £129,950



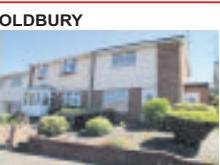
Milestone Croft
* Mid terraced house
* Two bedrooms (master ensuite)
* Conservatory * Lounge
* Fitted kitchen
* Off road parking
* Bathroom * Garden

Offers in the region of £125,000



Parsons Hill
* Traditional style semi
* Three bedrooms
* Some improvement required
* Lounge * Kitchen/diner
* Extensive gardens
* First floor bathroom

Offers in the region of £119,950



Radnor Road
* Extended end of terrace house
* Two bedrooms
* Through lounge
* Kitchen/breakfast room
* Bathroom * Shower/wetroom
* Good size garden

Offers in the region of £99,950



Highbury Close
* Spacious first floor apartment
* Two bedrooms
* Lounge & kitchen
* Shower room
* Garden
* Lock up garage
* Extended lease upon completion

Offers in the region of £79,950



Holly Road
* Ideal for first time buyer/Investor
* Terraced House
* Two Bedrooms
* Good Sized rear garden
* No upward Chain

Offers in the region of £74,950



9 Harrison Road
* Mid-terraced house
* Superior finish
* 2 Bedrooms
* Kitchen with appliances
* Bathroom with separate shower
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9 Old Port Close
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An unfurnished modern detached house, close to local shops, briefly comprising of: Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Three Bedrooms, Master Bedroom with En-Suite, Bathroom with Shower, Garage and Driveway Parking, Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
£695 PCM



HALESOWEN, DOWNING STREET

An immaculately presented And Recently Modernised Semi-Detached Home, Centrally Located To Halesowen Town Centre. Comprising Of: Three Good Sized Bedrooms With Fitted Wardrobes, Fitted Kitchen With White Goods, Styling Lounge And Separate Dining Room, Family Bathroom With Shower, Downstairs WC, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Driveway Parking, Large Rear Garden, Part Furnished. A MUST SEE PROPERTY
£695 PCM



HALESOWEN, ALBERT ROAD

An immaculately presented detached house within minutes of Halesowen, in a well sought after location, comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Large Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Downstairs WC, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking to the Front, Detached Garage at Rear, Front and Rear Gardens, A Property Not To Be Missed
£695 PCM



HALESOWEN, THE INFIELD

An unfurnished modern 3 bed semi detached family home, located on a new build development, benefitting from: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Comprising: Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Guest WC, 3 Bedrooms One with En-Suite, Family Bathroom with Shower, Small Rear Garden and Allocated Parking.
£650 PCM



STOURBRIDGE, WHEELER STREET

A traditional three bedroom mid terraced property in a popular residential area and comprising of: - Front Reception Room with Original Marble Fireplace, Back Reception Room, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs Bathroom with Shower, Two Large Bedrooms and One Large Single, Lovely Rear Garden, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, On Road Parking, Available Immediately.
£650 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, WRIGHTS LANE

A short distance from Old Hill shops and local train station is this well presented unfurnished semi detached house, comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Downstairs WC, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, House Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, On Road Parking to Front
£575 PCM



HALESOWEN, BRETT YOUNG CLOSE

An Impressive 1st Floor Apartment Which Comes Part Furnished To Suit. Within Walking Distance to Halesowen Centre, Briefly Comprising Of: Two Double Bedrooms, Master Bedroom With Modern En-Suite, Spacious Lounge, Modern Kitchen and Separate Dining Area, Modern Bathroom With Shower, Allocating Parking, Well Worth A Viewing
£575 PCM



NEW ROWLEY REGIS, PENNCRICKET LANE

An Unfurnished Newly Refurbished Semi Detached House Comprising Of: Three Bedrooms, Lounge, Brand New Fitted Kitchen, Brand New Bathroom With Shower, Double Glazing, Modern Kitchen and Separate Dining Area, Modern Bathroom With Shower, Allocating Parking, Well Worth A Viewing
£550 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, DUKE STREET

A two bedroom refurbished mid terrace property, within walking distance to local buses and Blackheath Town Centre, comprising of: 2 Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen/Centre Unit, Private Rear Garden, 2 Double Bedrooms, Shower Room, Rear Access for Parking, A Must See Property!
£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, HIGHLAND HOUSE

Located just off Graham Road, is this very large, fully refurbished ground floor flat, comprising of: Two Large Bedrooms, New Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Allocated Parking, Garage, Communal Gardens, Unfurnished
£550 PCM



NEW ROWLEY REGIS, BRITANNIA ROAD

Located Within A Short Drive From Local Shops, M5 J2, Rowley Train Station, And Local School, Is This Newly Refurbished Terraced House Briefly Comprising Of: Two Bedrooms, New Fitted Kitchen, House Bathroom With Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking At Rear, Rear Garden, Unfurnished
£525 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, NEW POOL ROAD

Currently Undergoing A Full Refurbishment With A New Kitchen, New Bathroom, New Carpets, New Decoration, Is This End Terraced Property, Located Within A Few Minutes Walk Of Cradley Heath Train Station And 5 Minutes Drive From Cradley Heath Town Centre. Comprising Of: Two Good Sized Bedrooms, Large Lounge With Dining Area, New Kitchen, New Bathroom With Separate Toilet. A Property Not To Be Missed!
£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, BEECHER ROAD

An unfurnished semi detached house, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Lounge, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Downstairs Bathroom, Laundry Room, En-Suite Shower Room to Master Bedroom, Driveway Parking, Front and rear gardens. A Value for Money Property.
£525 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, LUANNE CLOSE

Situated in this popular residential area, is this first floor apartment, which overlooks the canal and has its own balcony, comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Access to Balcony from the Baster Bedroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking. Well Worth An Inspection
£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, BRETT YOUNG CLOSE

An impressive ground floor apartment within walking distance to Halesowen town centre, with great bus links to Birmingham. Briefly comprising of: Two BedRooms - Double and Single, Spacious Lounge, Modern Kitchen and Separate Dining Area, Modern Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking, Not To Be Missed!
£525 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, HALAS COURT

An unfurnished top floor apartment, close to local shops, train station and bus routes, briefly comprising of: Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with Appliances, Two BedRooms, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Electronic Gates leading to Secure Parking Area, Internal Inspection Recommended
£475 PCM



HALESOWEN, MANOR LANE

A furnished flat above shop, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Large Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Shower Room, Secure Parking
£475 PCM



NETHERTON, ROUND STREET

An unfurnished semi detached house, in a popular area, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Shower Room, Secure Parking
£475 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, ELBOW STREET

Situated in a quiet location, within walking distance to Old Hill town and local train station is this unfurnished first floor flat, comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Large Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Allocated Parking.
£450 PCM



NEW ROWLEY REGIS, WINCHESTER CLOSE

A very well presented, unfurnished first floor apartment, close to the Homer Hill Estate, is this spacious first floor apartment which has been redecorated and new carpets fitted, briefly comprising of: Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Glazing, Bathroom with Shower, Parking Space and Parking Area for Visitors, Communal Gardens
£425 PCM



HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY

Located on the popular development of the Homer Hill Estate, is this spacious first floor apartment which has been redecorated and new carpets fitted, briefly comprising of: Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Allocated Parking
£350 PCM



An artist's impression of a street scene at Silver Waters

This slick-looking kitchen has been professionally

New show home for the buyer with style in mind

PROPERTY-SEEKERS with an eye for style should make a date to visit the fabulous new show home coming soon at Silver Waters, Taylor Wimpey's exciting new collection of high-quality properties in Brownhills, West Midlands.

The magnificent four-bedroom 'Eynsham' show home has been professionally decorated and furnished to offer a unique insight into the wonderful lifestyle opportunities at this conveniently situated development.

Would-be homeowners can be among the first to view this inspirational property when it is officially launched at 10am on Saturday, September 29.

Anne Wallace, regional sales manager for Taylor Wimpey, says: "We're already experiencing a great deal of interest from potential purchasers keen to benefit from Silver Waters' well-connected location close to town centre amenities and top-notch transport links, yet with picturesque woodland and open countryside on the doorstep."

"Interest in this development has been high since it opened in July and the launch of the luxurious 'Eynsham' show home is bound to attract even more attention from discerning homeowners."

"Anyone hoping to choose a perfect plot should act now to avoid missing out."

The four-bedroom 'Eynsham' detached house offers a wealth of generous accommodation that's ideal for growing families, with homes of this design currently available from £259,995.

growing families, with homes of this design currently available from £259,995.

The 'Eynsham' boasts a large kitchen/family/breakfast room opening through French doors to the private rear garden, a generous lounge, a separate dining room and a guest cloakroom off the entrance hallway.

Upstairs, the landing leads to a luxurious en-suite master bedroom, an en-suite guest bedroom, two further bedrooms and a main bathroom, while an integral garage and driveway parking can be found outside.

Plots

Meanwhile, two-bedroom starter homes are priced from as little as £143,995 at Silver Waters, three-bedroom houses from only £166,995, and alternative four-bedroom detached properties from just £229,995.

Selected plots are available with Taylor Wimpey's popular easystart shared equity initiative, which lets qualifying first-time buyers secure their new home for just 85 per cent of its full purchase price, including a five per cent deposit, subject to status.

Alternatively, the development makes 95 per cent mortgages available to homebuyers in a range of circumstances. Full details of all incentives are available from the sales executive.

Silver Waters is at the forefront of the exciting regeneration of Brownhills, and benefits from a convenient

location within easy reach of a host of town centre amenities, including independent and high street shops, cafes and restaurants, and a large Tesco supermarket.

Just a short stroll from the development are the green open spaces of Holland Park, Chasewater Country Park and the rolling Staffordshire countryside, as well as the scenic tow-paths of the Wyrley and Essington Canal. Meanwhile, nearby Cannock Chase offers acre upon acre of forest, woodland and parkland for walking, cycling and wildlife watching.

Schools for children of all ages are located close to the new homes, while commuters will appreciate the town's good public transport links and close proximity to the A5, the A461, the M6 Toll and the M6 for connections around the Midlands.

To experience the 'Eynsham' show home at Silver Waters, visitors should come along to the launch weekend on Saturday, September 29 between 10am and 5pm.

Alternatively, the development, located off Silver Street, Brownhills, WS8 6EB, is open during the same hours from Thursday to Monday – the sales executive can be contacted on 0845 071 8879.

Further information about Taylor Wimpey developments across the region is available by calling 01926 516900 or www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/midlands

Batten down the hatches as months of winter loom

WITH winter on the horizon, making your home's central heating system as energy efficient as possible should be a priority.

Replacing an old G-rated boiler (the least energy efficient) with a super-efficient A-rated (condensing) boiler is expensive (typically £2,000 upwards), but could save you around £300 a year on running costs, according to the Energy Saving Trust. This is based on replacing the boiler and heating controls in a three-bed semi with gas central heating.

If your home's windows aren't double or triple glazed (or have secondary glazing), the heating will be dispensed with.

Again, replacing the windows is an expensive business, typically costing several thousand pounds, but it is worth doing if you can afford to, and you don't have to go for period imperfect windows – double-glazed sashes offer the best of both worlds, for example. With listed buildings and homes on 'designated land', such as conservation areas, there are stricter rules about replacement windows (and doors), so ask your local council.

To make further savings on your energy bills, you may want to consider fitting energy-efficient glazing, such as Planitherm. This glass has a special coating that helps to retain radiated heat in the room and also captures the sun's energy to heat the room further.

Your home's external walls are another big area of heat loss. Houses built from 1920 onwards usually have cavity walls and these can be injected with insulation (a job for the pros) to keep the heat in and cold out.

Solid walls let through twice as much heat as cavity walls, but insulating them isn't as straightforward – it can be done internally or externally.

Measures like these that make your home more energy efficient go a long way, but you can go further down the eco route.

Have you considered generating your own electricity? This is typically done with a wind turbine or solar panels (a different type of solar panels can be used to heat your home's water).

Domestic wind turbines only work well in certain locations, so solar panels are the best bet for many of us.

Installs If you're worried about the cost (usually many thousands of pounds) of having solar panels fitted, there are ways to cushion the financial blow, such as special loans and 'rent a roof' schemes.

With the latter, you get the solar panels free of charge, but you have to give the company that provides and installs them the income you receive from the Government's Feed-In Tariffs scheme. This scheme pays you for both the electricity you generate and use at home and any surplus you supply to the national grid.

Another Government scheme (although it isn't up and running for homeowners yet) is the Renewable Heat Incentive, which is expected to financially reward people who use renewable heat technologies at home.

This should apply to heat pumps, which extract warmth from the air, ground or a water source and use it to heat the home.

Then there's the Government's Green Deal, which may provide finance for energy-efficient home improvements such as insulation and double glazing. Go to www.decc.gov.uk to find out more.



Save on bills with double-glazing

MOTORING NEWS AND REVIEWS

CHRONICLE

MOTORING

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

New Mitsubishi is a workhorse which has stylish looks

IT has been some time since I last tested a Mitsubishi L200 and this model, the Trojan, has been reintroduced for 2012.

It is aimed firmly at the building, plumbing, electrical and agricultural sectors and it is easy to see why.

Exterior-wise the Trojan looks every bit as rugged as its predecessor and in Cosmos Black pearlescent paint is pretty striking as well. It comes fitted with 16in alloy wheels, chrome door handles and wing mirrors which add to the overall appeal that has been a trademark of the L200 range.

Internally, the model I drove was not fitted out with the leather seats but this not detract from the look of the interior. What was a bit of a surprise was the dashboard. Although it was well laid out, it seemed to comprise acres of grey plastic. Eminently practical but lacking in aesthetics department, which given the target market will probably not matter one bit!

Keeping it clean will be an absolute doodle, however. The instrumentation is well laid out and easy to read on the move and the convenient layout shows which

By Sharon Walters

mode you are using from two wheel, four wheel or diff lock.

What is noticeable is the engine; I was surprised at just how noisy it was. Never completely intrusive but there nevertheless, although you do get used to it pretty quickly. On the positive side the engine has received a massive 30 per cent increase in power, taking it to 175bhp, which really shows and makes a much better proposition for long-distance work.

On the motorway you could leave it in top and use the power to overtake with ease. The gearbox is well suited to the power of the engine but I kept reaching for a sixth gear (it only has five). That said, the ratios seem well spaced, but I did not test it with a trailer so cannot speak for how well it would cope in these circumstances.

From a handling perspective I will repeat my mantra: coil springs on front; leaf springs on back equals bouncy rear end! It really does help the handling to have a load in the back of the pick-up bed as this softens

the ride. This was most noticeable on the Shropshire lanes where it has to be said you became used to it pretty quickly, and it was never dangerous in any way.

On the motorway it was a completely different story. At 70 mph the Trojan settled down and worked extremely well and made crossing long distances a real joy.

Extras

The test car came with a couple of optional extras. The first was a towbar pack which looked well-made and rugged. The other was a load liner. The good thing about this was that it extended over the side rails so you aren't going to destroy the sides of the bed getting things in and out, but it was shiny and pretty much anything I put in it slid about, so some form of anti-slip is required.

The other criticism is how the bed drains. I found two holes at the front of the bed and could find nowhere where this water went other than drained along the steel bed underneath. Fine when brand new but seems like a serious rust trap to me. It would be far better to exclude these and

make the bed watertight, that way parking on an incline and opening the tailgate works fine. Bearing in mind that this is aimed at traders I can't see this being a hardship.

The Trojan is unashamedly aimed at the people who will help Britain out of recession and as a practical pick-up it

makes an ideal work companion. And if there are any builders interested I think we could probably get five, maybe six bankers in the pick-up bed. So if you need some ballast for your next job the Trojan will handle it with ease!



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57 Reg FORD FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC. Green, A/C, Alloys, CD, 5 - door, Low Ins 4, 32k	£5195 £33
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06 Reg PEUGEOT 1007 1.4 DOLCE. Silver, A/C, CD, Sliding doors, Ins Grp 3, FSH, 36k	£3195 £26
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Representative Example: Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Manual	Deposit including £1,500 Honda contribution	£1,749.00	Credit acceptance fee	£125.00
4/ monthly payments (duration 48 months)	£249.00	Total amount of credit	£15,206.00	Total amount payable
On the road price (cash price)	£16,955.00	Final payment (inc. option to purchase fee)	£5,495.30	Interest rate per annum
Customer deposit	£249.00	Option to purchase fee	£65.00	Representative APR



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Fuel consumption figures for the Civic range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 32.5 – 55.4 (8.7 – 5.1), Extra Urban 54.3 – 76.3 (5.2 – 3.7), Combined 44.1 – 67.3 (6.4 – 4.2). CO2 emissions: 150 – 110g/km.

Model shown: Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Manual in monsoon metallic. Milano Red at £16,955 On the Road. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail (VAT) registrations (excluding Civic 1.0) from 19 September 2012 to 31 December 2012. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealerships at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Rental Aspirations (POPs):** Example shown based on annual mileage of 10,000. **Excess mileage charge:** 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due. The vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. **Servicing:** Three years' complimentary servicing or 37,500 miles, whichever comes first and includes a maximum of three services. Complimentary servicing covers the manufacturer's scheduled servicing only.

Low rate finance provided by GMAC Financial Services and is subject to status and terms and conditions may apply. Written quotations are available upon request. £3,000 minimum part-exchange offer. Available off of the vehicle's On The Road (OTR) price, and is applicable when trading in any make or model subject to terms and conditions and valid MOT with a minimum of 14 days remaining. Offers stated are available until 31st December 2012. Free Fuel offer: 15,000 miles of free petrol is based on the MG6's official combined fuel consumption figure (37.7) and a pump price of 132.2 pence per litre - the July 2012 UK average as quoted by the AA (http://www.theaa.com/motoring_advice/fuel). This equates to a monetary figure of £2,391.22p. Fuel payment will be sent to the customer via a pre-paid Fuel Genie card worth £2,400.00, registered to their vehicle and valid for a 3 year period. The customer will receive a Fuel Genie Card within 28 days after collection of their vehicle. No cash alternative is available in either case.

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with a reasonable mileage.

They will be great buys for people wanting to get into an MG6 and the cars will still have the balance of the original warranty, AA European Breakdown Assistance, and the higher spec models will have lifelong subscription to Traffic Master."

The MG6 GT was launched in May 2011 and the four-door Magnette sports saloon was launched in July 2011. Both cars were designed and engineered at the MG Birmingham site where final assembly also takes place.



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The New Honda CR-V will arrive in dealerships this month. Prices range from £21,395 to £30,995

Pricing and specification for the new British-built Honda

Honda (UK) has confirmed pricing and specification for the new British built CR-V which will be landing in dealerships in this month.

Prices will start from £21,395 OTR for the entry level 2.0 i-VTEC manual S grade 2WD model and rise to £30,995 for the top-of-the-range 2.2 i-DTEC EX AWD manual transmission.

The introduction of the 2WD allows the new CR-V to enter the market with a lower entry price, thus broadening the sales potential. Honda has also improved the specifications through the whole of the range, whilst still managing to keep costs in line with the third generation CR-V.

The new fourth generation CR-V offers even greater

quality, practicality and refinement than its predecessor and with environmental concerns of increasing importance, both the 2.0 i-VTEC and 2.2 i-DTEC engines emit significantly less CO₂. Plus, for the first time in Europe, the new CR-V will be offered with a choice of two- and four-wheel drive.

Customers still get the Tardis-like interior. With the rear seats in place the boot capacity is a spacious 589 litres and this extends to 1,669 litres when the seats are down.

The practicality is further enhanced by the addition of keyless entry and power tailgate (standard on EX trim level), which makes it easier for owners to further maximise the boot space.

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Fuel consumption figures for the Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC Si Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.2 (6.7), Extra Urban 57.7 (4.9), Combined 50.4 (5.6). CO₂ emissions: 129g/km.

Model shown: Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC Si in White Orchid Pearl at £15,000 On The Road. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail Jazz Si registrations from 19 September 2012 to 31 December 2012. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £159 per month example shown based on Jazz 1.4 Si Manual in metallic paint with 3 year (9%) APR with 27% deposit. Annual mileage of 10,000. Excess mileage charge 3p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY.

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Lost & Found

LOST
Adult male ginger and white cat, last seen Sunday, Sept 23 on Ashmore Park, wearing blue collar with name tag. Call 07745 993163.

LOST
PLEASE HELP ME FIND MY BELOVED CAT.

Dark chocolate brown, Oriental neutered Male, microchipped, missing from garden in Hitchborne Drive, Dudley on Friday, September 28, between 5pm-7pm.

He is very timid and hides, please check behind sheds and dense foliage in garden, he may have travelled as far as Milling Bank Est. or Gornal area.

Reward for safe return.

Please call with any info 01384 233789 or 01902 670491.

LOOK

LOST
Three year old neutered blue female Bengal, aqua eyes. No collar but micro-chipped. Last seen on Saturday, September 8.

From the Dudley area, £500 Reward for safe return no questions asked. 07905 100220.

LOOK

LOST
Large semi long haired white male cat with black tail, last seen Sep 17, Chartersfield, Kingswinford. Call 01384 834292.



Second plea of help. My small black smooth haired cat from last weeks advert was hit by a vehicle approx at 7am and was kindly placed on the grass verge before Sandown Drive School exit Porton, by 7.20 she had gone. Did any kind person help her or pick her up? I'm heartbroken and need to know. 07984 180733

personal

A GENTLEMAN
Late 50's, non-smoker, own house and car, decent job. Seeks a lady of similar standing for friendship, possibly LTR.

All letters answered
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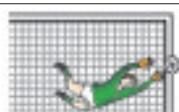
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U13's Goal keeper required.

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Lady's open age Goalkeeper required.

Contact Rob 07867 664433.

INDIAN GENTLEMAN 48

ft tall, athletic build, single, non-smoker, likes to spend winter in summer climates. WLTM a non smoking lady age 30 - 45 with GSOH for travel, Friendship and possibly leading to Relationship.

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Box Number C18072,
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LONELY WIDOW MID 60'S

Is interested in meeting new Friends.
I am a smoker, dog and country lover but am not very mobile and I enjoy the simple life.
Wolverhampton, Wombourne, Kingswinford or surrounding area.

Box Number P18071,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MALE 46

Looking for long term relationship with attractive female, my interests include most sports, etc and gardening.

Photo appreciated - returned.

Box Number P18079,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

ROBSON John

I'm trying to locate anyone who worked at Mander Kidd Printing Ink in Wolverhampton who may have worked with my Dad. He passed away in 1992 and I'm doing a memory book on his life.

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DUDLEY AREA, large room in nice house, self contained, no bills. £65pw inc. Also 1 bed furn flat, £85pw. No DSS. 07712 950940.

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LOWEST GATE 1 bed, fully self contained flatlet, own facilities, suit single, mature person. Call 01384 281363.

NICE 1-BED 1st floor flat, DG, CH, no DSS, £650 plus, £395 pm. 01902 635785.

PENN 3 bed House, with garage, DG, CH. 07955 232733.

PENFIELD 2bedroom, recently renovated, 2 bed, £650 pw, £460 pm. DSS considered. 01243 337305.

ROSEVILLE EXCELANT large 2/3 double bedroom flat, no DSS. £495pm. 07976 671074

TWO BED SEMI with loft bedroom, Penn, Wolverhampton, nice area. £365pm. 01902 565000.

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3-BED SEMI with garage, DCH, £480 pm. 07773 604115.

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clockroom, diesel, CH,

multi-fuel stove, excellent

condition, recently repainted.

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RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION +, 2001, silver, alloys, black, fsh, low, MoT, one owner, tax, £1,000 ono. 07722 004844.

RENAULT MEGANE COUPE, MoT, Tax, engine needs slight attention, £700, 07506 735387.

RENAULT MEGANE Dynamique, diesel, 139k, high mileage, 2007, tax, £1,000, MoT, £1,000 ono. 01902 337498 - 07803 691913.

ROVER 200 1.4, V Reg, silver, 3dr, hatch, 74k, Tax 11/12, MoT 05/13, alloys CD, £950ono. 07758 866999.

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SAB 55 ARC, 2.0 leather, climate auto, 2002, 185bhp, leather, climate, tax and MoT, bargain £1,075 ono.

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SKODA OCTAVIA SDI 1.9 Diesel, 1999, reg 01/00, miles, MoT August 2013, tax December, £1,150. 07743 692662.

SUZUKI VITARA 1.6, 1995, V6, 2.0, 5dr, 10 months MoT, 2 months tax, 68k, good condition, EW, CL, £1,595 ono. 07448 872524.

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VAUXHALL ASTRA ESTATE 1.6, petrol, MoT, tax, good condition, 1999, £1,200.

Telephone 07760 887220.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 CDX, ecotech, 1999, full MoT, tax March, 88k, ps, excellent condition, £695. Call 07958 698030.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 GLS, 03 reg, 5dr, 10 months MoT, 2002, good condition, bargain £1,295 o.n.o. 07815 517677.

VAUXHALL CORSA 2002, MoT, taxed December, red, £995 o.n.o. 07815 517644.

VAUXHALL CORSA C, 1.1, 3dr, silver, EW, CD, alloy wheels, service history, MoT, looks and drives very well, economical, cheap tax.

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VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 GSi, 02 reg, five months MoT, £650. 07778 294979.

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SUZUKI JIMNY 1999, blue, 68,531 miles, EW, EM, great condition, MoT £1,600 ono.

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SUZUKI JIMNY 1999, blue, 68,531 miles, EW, EM, great condition, MoT £1,600 ono.

Telford, 01952 675200.

YAMAHA YBR 125, good condition and reliable, 2009, black, 11,000 miles, MoT March 2013, alarm fitted, £1,295 ono.

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Penney pinches a point at the death

Tipton Town 3 Stratford Town 3
TIPTON Town were up against it from the off at Gospel Oak on Saturday.

They faced free-scoring Midland Alliance leaders Stratford Town without the services of first-team regulars Eric Bowen, Mike Wardle, Nathan Waite and Mitch Plows and then saw impressive young goalkeeper Jack Hayfield tweak a hamstring in the warm-up, to be replaced by Neil Page.

A further blow came as Stratford took the lead on 32 minutes through Anthony Robinson, before Tipton skipper Tom Tonks pulled his side level.

As half-time loomed Robinson netted again from close range and just before the break the visitors may well have increased their lead as Jamie Bailey powered a header just over.

Tipton spurned a gilt-edged chance to level in the 54th minute as Matt Martin cleverly outfoxed the visitors' rearguard to slip a pass through to Karl Edwards. But off balance, he miscued and put his effort wide.

Cannoned

Tipton deservedly levelled in the 61st minute as Martin's cross-cum-shot cannoned into the net off the keeper's boot.

Stratford mounted further attacks and went 3-2 up just five minutes later, Josh O'Grady coolly finishing from a dozen yards following a sweeping move.

As the game neared its conclusion, Tipton seemingly blew their chance of an equaliser in the 86th minute when Nigel Penney expertly evaded two desperate Stratford tackles, only to miscue wide.

But in the 90th minute the striker won the home side a hard-earned precious point.

Straight eight blow for the Bs

Sporting Khalsa 8 Bustleholme 0

POOR Bustleholme were the victims as Sporting Khalsa recorded their biggest-ever West Midlands Premier win.

They played attractive football to a good tempo and led 2-0 at the break. In the second half, it became one-way traffic as Khalsa scored goal after goal. Arron Wills and Bradley Lawley each scored a hat-trick with Sam Whitehouse and Mark Abbershaw also on target.

Impressive showing despite scoreline

**Hampton-in-Arden 7
Old Halesonians 2**

OLD Halesonians first grabbed the opening goal in this opening league clash. But it was the home side which emerged triumphant.

Doug Houghton opened Hales' account for the season, to make it 1-0. Old Hales were in control for the first 10 minutes, but the home side began to put pressure on the visitors, and win penalty corners.

Hampton-in-Arden's game plan centred on these set-pieces, and Hales played into their hands giving them away cheaply. Hales

found themselves 5-1 down at half-time.

With such a deficit to reduce, it was going to take a huge fight from Old Hales who continued to put in tremendous effort but to no avail.

Mark Curzon was sin-binned after receiving a yellow card for persistent offending, and the 10 men of Hales struggled to hold on. Hampton managed to score two more goals, with Old Hales managing only a consolation goal from Graham Knight.

Old Halesonians Hockey Club

Old Halesonians 1 Belper 7
Derbyshire side Belper Hockey Club visited Old Hales on Sunday in round two of the England Hockey Cup.

With the visitors 40 league places above the Old Hales side it was once again going to be a struggle following the previous day's defeat. With a smaller squad, a much-changed Hales side took to the field and despite the scoreline they put in a magnificent display.

Old Hales kept Belper at bay for

the first 20 minutes of the game, and tried to hit the National League side on the break. Chances were few and far between for the home side, who defended well, despite the continued onslaught from Belper.

However, it was clear that it was only a matter of time before Belper took the lead, and a sublime strike found the corner of the goal to open the scoring. Inspired defending continued to keep the score down including a goalline clearance from Ben Hughes. The visitors continued to pressure the Hales

defence, and some excellent play led to three more goals before the break.

At 4-0 it was certainly not beyond a comeback, but Belper took control of possession of the second half and capitalised on this, with a firing Hales side.

Two more strikes from Belper made it 6-0, before first team debutant Ash Underhill deflected the ball past the Belper goalkeeper for a consolation goal.

Belper made it 7-1 before the final whistle, in a game where Hales put in an impressive display.

Greaves at double in Hales fightback

**Hampton-in-Arden 1
Old Halesonians 3**

HALES seconds bounced back from a goal down to win their final pre-season friendly.

An early short corner gave Hampton the lead, the ball deflecting past Steve Charleton off Reiss Thompson's stick.

Hales improved as the half went on, and a tactical change by player/coach Jake Brooke saw Hales press more in attack. Chances came and went but their persistence finally paid off as Ash Greaves slotted home an equaliser.

Hales kept up their pressure, and Greaves gave them the lead with his second after he benefited from the fine movement of Harry Hughes up-front.

The second half was a tighter and scrappier affair, as Hales tired in the heat. Despite this, the defence remained resolute and Hampton failed to trouble the Hales goal. Another relative newcomer, Charles Palmer completed the scoring from Hales' only short corner of the game.

**Bournville Ladies 0
Old Halesonians Ladies 6**

Old Hales ladies started their Worcestershire League campaign with a dominant display against Bournville.

Player of the match Annie Smith and Bernie O'Grady both scored hat-tricks. Hales ran the show with an impressive display under new coach Jim Gurwin.

**Redditch Ladies 1
Old Halesonians Ladies 4**

The newly-formed ladies seconds started their league campaign with a win at Redditch.

Debutant Emily Cato opened the scoring with Lynn Fell, Leanda Foster and Dawn Lewis all picking up goals. Another debutant, Gemma Taylor, was named woman of the match.

**Kings Heath 1
Old Halesonians 1**

Alex Evans opened the scoring for Old Hales thirds against an older, more experienced Kings Heath side.

Ade Lockyer in goal kept Kings Heath at bay for much of the match, but the home side were able to grab an equaliser late on.

**Old Halesonians 3
Kings Heath 0**

Hales fourths stormed to a comfortable win with goals from Nigel Smith, Craig Bray and Matt Harrold.

Other Results: Old Hales fifties 3 Cannock 4, West Bromwich Badgers 6 Old Hales Badgers 3.

Feeling of regret is pointer to progress

Villa 1 Albion 1

IT IS a mark of Albion's progress that the players were disappointed to draw.

The Baggies departed Villa Park with a point that, for around three decades, would have sent their supporters home delirious, writes Steve Madeley.

And yet as players, coaches and fans made their exit from the claret and blue territory on Sunday, the flood of satisfaction was diluted ever so slightly by a drop of regret.

Steve Clarke's men were within 10 minutes of victory at a ground that, for so long, proved an impenetrable fortress for generations of Baggies teams who existed in the shadow of the West Midlands' self-styled flagship club.

They departed with a more than handy draw that left them six points clear of Paul Lambert's men, in the top six after half-a-dozen Premier League games that have brought just one defeat on a strange day at Craven Cottage.

Expectations

It was a result with which Clarke and his players had every right to be happy, and by large they were.

Yet the fact that several Baggies players spoke of what might have been as they boarded the coach to return to the Black Country painted a clear picture of the rocketing expectations around The Hawthorns.

'Pride of the Midlands', sang Albion's fans before and after Darren Bent's late leveller denied them the three points that would have given them ultimate regional bragging rights. And it was not just a cheap jibe with which to bait their Villa counterparts, but a hard-earned status and a tag of which Albion supporters are proud.

But there was a spell in the second half when Albion, just as they had last year against both Villa and Wolves, demonstrated just why they have taken on the role of West Midlands' top dogs. While



Albion's Gareth McAuley slides in to halt a run by Villa's Gabriel Agbonlahor

Lambert's Villa are a side in the infancy of their development, modern-day Albion are an outfit with the ability to control a top-flight game.

The fluidity, imagination and crispness of distribution they displayed either side of Shane Long's deserved 51st-minute opener was typical of new confidence and poise.

Clarke's men went into the derby with fans confident they could heap more misery on Villa.

And for almost half-an-hour it appeared their belief was well-founded after Long, who had missed a first-half sitter and seen a header ruled out for offside in the second period, showed his confidence was unaffected as he sprinted in at the far post to turn home a cross from James Morrison.

It was just reward for two of Albion's better players with Long's fine movement and tireless running justifying his recall at

the expense of Romelu Lukaku and Morrison's elusive darts continuing his eye-catching start to the new season.

For a while, the Baggies kept the ball with the strut of top-flight thoroughbreds with Morrison irresistible, Youssouf Mulumbu irrepressible and Claudio Yacob taking to derby-day football with aplomb.

But, to their credit, Villa responded to their fans' vocal encouragement and fought hard. The hosts could justifiably point to their own spell of pressure before half-time, during which Ben Foster twice excelled in the Baggies goal to deny Brett Holman.

With 10 minutes remaining, Bent swept home a rebound in a goalmouth scramble to finally breach the Baggies defences.

Yet still Lukaku might have restored the Baggies lead only to be denied, first by the woodwork and then by Brad Guzan, as Albion had to settle for a point.

Smooth Yeltz through to next round

Halesowen Town 3 Gresley 0

NEW Halesowen boss John Hill watched in-form Yeltz hit three second-half goals to progress to the next round of the FA Trophy before taking charge.

In an even first half, Luke Corbett's early strike for Halesowen was ruled out for handball and home goalkeeper Paul Evans spread himself to save from Gresley's Richard Hanslow. Halesowen's Ben Haseley blazed his first real chance high after 34 minutes before the Moatmen's dangerman Hanslow turned brilliantly to clip the frame of the goal.

The second half was a different story and Haseley handed Halesowen a 61st-minute lead in trademark style.

Controversy followed when a 73rd-minute penalty appeal from home captain Neil Barnfield was turned down after Hatley raced out of goal.

But Halesowen soon sealed a place in the next round with two late penalties. Corbett fired home the first penalty in the 81st minute and then another off Hatley's legs and into the roof of the net to make it 3-0 after Marc Goodfellow brought down Craig Milligan with four minutes remaining.

Halesowen Town: P. Evans; Lyett, Caines, Brooks, Keir, Milligan (Oately 87), Steane (Smith 29), Barnes, Corbin, Haseley (D. Evans 82), Gueyes. **Subs not used:** Power, Fidow.

Gresley FC: Hatley; Barrett, Gough, Strzyzewski, Nottingham (Douglas 18), Langford (Lyons 70), White (Spencer 84), Jepson, Oliver, Hanslow, Goodfellow.

Subs not used: Turville, Massingham.

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Cup exit for Yeltz after Hill opener

Studley 2 Halesowen Town 1

JOHN HILL'S first game in charge of Halesowen Town ended in defeat and an exit from the Birmingham Senior Cup.

Halesowen could have taken the lead within the first minute on Tuesday night, but Jean-Michel Gueyes shot wide, as did Leon Blake for Studley shortly afterwards.

Neil Barnfield saw a header cleared off the line and Gueyes side-footed wide before Studley took advantage of the misses when Alex Henry crossed and Martin Crawford's shot somehow found its way under Paul Evans' body. But Gueyes levelled the score with a neat drive on the hour after Barnfield put him through with a ball over the defence.

Yeltz top scorer Ben Hales was denied a goal by a great save from Paul Hewitt and also missed two further chances. But on 83 minutes, Myron Semper settled the issue when he sent a header past Evans after Tom Lacey crossed.

More Yeltz – Page 39

High calibre of entries for contest

ENTRIES have poured in for a three-man bowls tournament with an unusual format.

Sixteen three-man teams will take part in the competition at The Gate in Colley Gate, Halesowen on Saturday.

The knockout event sees each side take part in a singles and doubles match, with the aggregate score deciding the winner.

Organiser Gary Peniket has secured backing from local businesses, including Wolverhampton work platforms supplier Safe Access Solutions and Birmingham windscreen supplier Motorglaze, meaning a £770 overall purse for the event.

Play gets under way at 10am and is expected to end at around 9pm at the green, which is equipped with floodlights. The bar will be open and food available.

It is a high-calibre list of entries and Peniket hopes the Gate Three-Man Team may become an annual event.

Draw: Moor Lane v George B, BSM v Sutton Park, Royal Oak v Dudley Dell, North Mids v KGV B, George A v Greenvale, KHP v KGV A, M&B Cheslyn Hay v Bradley Libs, Selly Park v Derbyshire.

Premature end for Hughes as engine seizes

HALESOWEN teenager Bradley Hughes suffered disappointment after anticipating a strong result in the penultimate round of the 2012 Monster Energy British Motostar championship and Cup at Silverstone.

Things began with the promise of good things to come on his second outing for Team Repli-Cast Racing.

But his race came to a premature end when the bike seized after just four of the 10 laps, writes Mike Lawrence.

Free practice went well for the 15-year-old rider and he completed the first session in fifth place (third in the cup). In the second session, Hughes was 10th overall (fifth in

Motorcycling

the cup) but had experienced some problems with the bike's front end.

With the difficulty rectified, Hughes came out for qualifying in confident mood recording some of his fastest ever lap times around the Northamptonshire circuit.

He completed his qualifying in 13th place and began the race from a fourth row grid position. As the race began, Hughes got away to a good start before being pushed wide at the first corner.

But he got his head down and began to pick off the riders ahead making up ground

to 13th place. However, his race was then over as the bike seized on lap four of 12, causing Bradley to retire.

"Friday practice went well," said Hughes. "We finished the first session in fifth and the second session in 10th."

"Qualifying followed the next day and we were off to a good start. Unfortunately we hadn't got the speed down the straights as we were struggling to find a good setting for the bike."

"We ended up qualifying 13th overall and on the forth row. We thought we had found a good setting in warm-up and we went for the race to get a good solid finish. The first

couple of laps were chaotic and I ran wide and dropped to 16th."

"I'd managed to catch them back up, but then unfortunately the bike said enough was enough and seized. Still, a good fun weekend and we look forward to last round at Brands Hatch GP."

"I just want to thank Gary Dawson (Repli-Cast manager) for all the efforts he put in to me this weekend. Also all my fans and sponsors for showing me their support."

The season finale is at Brands Hatch on the weekend of October 12-14 when Hughes will be striving to bring a top result back to his new team and end the season on a high.

Gala win in pool is third in a row

SWIMMERS from Halesowen Swimming Club have won the Braunstone trophy gala for the third successive year.

It was clear at the outset that Halesowen and the home team would be the ones to beat.

By the halfway mark, Halesowen began to stretch out a lead. They eventually ran out comfortable winners by 38 points.

Double event winners were Indiana Hanke in the backstroke and breaststroke, Zach Collins in the freestyle and backstroke and Chloe Finch, Mark Laing and Ben Meakin in the freestyle and butterfly.

Medley

Katy Morris and Sophie Page won the freestyle, Jack Simpson the backstroke, Piers Boyack, James Cuthbert and Connor Oates the breaststroke, Luke Morris the butterfly and Josh Bradley the individual medley.

The relay teams were on form with the age 11 and under and 15 and under teams winning both medley and freestyle events.

They included Emma Bird, Isobel Breslin, Ruby Fell, Kitty Luscombe, James Benson, Joe Coxon, Max Rollason and Euan Vaughan-Hawkins.

The open ladies and men also won both events at the gala.

The teams included Eliza Bradley, Sian Carey, Lillian Parsons, Rebecca Spoor, Jacob Darby and Jack Slatery.

Result: Halesowen 312pts, Braunstone A 274, Melton Mowbray 221, Market Harborough 184, Coalville 159, Leicester Neptune 121, Braunstone B 120

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HATS OFF TO POPOV AFTER DERBY DEBUT

ALBION coach Kevin Keen has hailed new-boy Goran Popov's flying start to Baggies life and backed the full-back to add vital competition for places in defence.

The Macedonia international made an impressive debut in Sunday's 1-1 derby draw at Villa after signing on a season-long loan from Dynamo Kiev.

And assistant head coach Keen says the 28-year-old has impressed his new coaches and team-mates.

"We had no doubts about him, even with it being a derby," said Keen.

"Whether we were playing Manchester United away, Aston Villa or wherever, it didn't matter because he has come from a club with a big pedigree."

"He has played Champions League football and you can see in his demeanour and the way he handles himself around the place, this is not a chap who is going to be fazed by anything."

Addition

"So we had no doubts on that front and the way he performed on Sunday shows he is going to be a great addition to the squad and he will certainly put some of our defenders under pressure for keeping their places, which is great."

"Competition for places is good and the gaffer is going to have tough decisions to make."

Popov replaced injured left-back Liam Ridgewell, and Keen believes the arrival of the new-boy has given head coach Steve Clarke useful options in defence.

"Liam can play centre-half as well and we needed cover at left-back if Liam was to get injured," said Keen. "It's a position where we hadn't got much cover."



Albion's Billy Jones takes to the air during the draw with Villa. He limped off, but may yet be fit to face QPR

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